THE  TIMES

No 62,017 THURSDAY DECEMBER 20 1984 20p

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners yesterday. Mrs Wyn Ballock of Ealing, London, and Mr D Scagell of Weybridge, Surrey each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 14; how to play, information service, back page.

Gas prices up 4.5% in February

Gas prices are to rise by 4.5 per cent from February 1 next year, British Gas announced. There will be no increase in standing charges and the corporation said that it intends to hold prices for the rest of 1985.

Unesco's loss

The United States announced that its withdrawal from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization would become effective on December 31.

Lord St Oswald

Lord St Oswald, a junior minister in the MacMillan Government, died suddenly yesterday at his London home at the age of 68.

Spy satellite

Mr Caspar Weinberger, US Defence Secretary, attacked *The Washington Post* for disclosing that the next space shuttle will launch a spy satellite Page 6

Videos seized

South African security police raided ITN's offices in Johannesburg and seized more than 30 video cassettes containing material shot over a two-year period Page 6

Svetlana move

Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter, is reported to be planning to live in her father's native republic of Georgia with her American-born daughter, Olga Page 6

Heroin death

Lady Gormanston, aged 29, wife of the premier viscount of Ireland, died of an overdose of heroin, a Westminster inquest was told Page 3

Sudan sorrow

Robert Fisk continues his reports on the efforts to help famine victims who have struggled over the Ethiopian border into Sudan Page 6

Government wins by 100 as rebels hold fire on cuts

By Julian Haviland and Richard Evans

The Government yesterday contained the threatened rebellion over freezing of local authority assets with apparent ease, and by a majority of 100, but only after extreme exertions by the whips and because some rebels are biding their time.

Proof of ministers' concern was the appearance for the second time this week of the Chief Whip, Mr John Wakeham, who cast his first vote since he was severely injured in the Brighton bombing. At least one minister, Mr John MacGregor, who was in Brussels, was flown back to Westminster to vote.

More than 30 Conservatives declined to support the Government in spite of the pressure. At least two voted with the opposition. About 20 showed their defiance by sitting out the division in the chamber.

On another sector of the front the Government is defending Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, was preparing for a tactical retreat by temporarily setting aside his Civil Aviation Bill.

In the emergency debate over the proposed cuts in council spending, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, was allowed an easier passage by Conservative critics who had mauled him the previous day.

But they made plain that, while unwilling to follow the Labour Party into the lobbies on this occasion, they were keeping their powder dry for a vote in the spring when orders will be presented to Parliament to reduce the proportion of capital receipts which local authorities will be permitted to spend.

Mr John Cunningham, Labour's chief spokesman on the environment, said Government management of local authority capital spending was abysmal. He urged the Tory rebels to show their mettle by recording their votes.

Mr Cunningham said there was a need for more public investment in housing with homelessness increasing and this year seeing the lowest number of council house completions ever recorded.

The total cut in money available to local authorities, he said, was well over £600 million – a cut of about 20 per cent in real terms.

Mr Cunningham said the Treasury was using councils' capital receipts to massage the public spending borrowing requirement, when they should be used to regenerate the economy, house people and create jobs in the construction industry.

One Conservative malcontent, Dr Keith Hampson, used much the same language, contrasting what he called the real world and the accounting world of the PSBR.

Mr Geoffrey Ripon, who did Mr Jenkin's job in the previous Conservative government, said they might not need to oppose the statutory instruments if Mr Jenkin was prepared to let councils use their capital receipts "in a proper way" where a case could be made.

But there was vocal majority support from the Conservative benches for Mr Jenkin's defence of his restraints, which he said lay at the heart of the Government's economic strategy.

Mr Ridley looks set to "freeze" his controversial Civil Aviation Bill for up to a year following the embarrassing rebellion by Conservative MPs opposed to a major expansion of Stansted airport.

Although he was said last night to still be considering his options following the unprecedented blocking of a cut in progress by the committee set up to examine it, MPs were confidently predicting that the Minister will tell the Commons this afternoon that he will not proceed until the future of Stansted is decided.

The Commons will hold a debate early next year, probably lasting two days, in the recently published Stansted Public Inquiry Report which recommends expansion of the airport.

Mr Ridley and Mr Ian Gow, the Minister for Housing and Construction are unlikely to pronounce on Stansted's future until June or July.

The current stalemate stems from the fear of Conservative rebels that the legislation pre-empts a decision on Stansted's future by giving ministers power to set rigid limits on flights into Heathrow.



A greeting for Mrs Thatcher from Deng Xiaoping before the signing

Queen accepts invitation to visit China in 1986

From Mary Lee, Peking

China's Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, is to visit Britain next summer, and the Queen has accepted an invitation to visit China in 1986. Also, a high level British trade delegation led by Lord Young, Minister without Portfolio, will visit Peking next March.

These exchanges were revealed in talks between Mr Zhao and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, on the occasion of the signing of the Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong yesterday.

The signing, deemed historic by all its participants, went off without a hitch, with generous praise from each side for the other. Mrs Thatcher had talks all day with Chinese leaders, starting with Mr Zaho, then the Communist Party General Secretary Mr Hu Yaobang and, Finally, the man who made the entire day possible – Deng Xiaopeng.

Much of the discussion concerned both government's determination to implement the joint declaration on Hong Kong, with all the Chinese leaders reiterating the point that China had a record of sticking to its iternational commitments, even during years of inernal turmoil during the Cultural Revolution.

Mr Deng himselfwent to some length to explain why China's policies on Hong Kong will remain unchanged for 50 years after 1997. "This policy," he told Mrs Thatcher "was put forward in the light of a particular situation in China. Inorder to become rally developed, China still needs 50 years after 1997. "He reiterated that of stability and prosperity in Hong Kong was in the interest of China's four modernization programmes.

Mrs Thatcher pledged that

Continued on back page, col 1

US Navy sets the Russians buzzing

Washington (NYT) – Two American aircraft carriers operating near bases around Vladivostok touched off a big Soviet military reaction several days ago, raising concern in the Japanese Government, administration officials said.

At least 100 Russian fighter bombers, reconnaissance planes and surface vessels were involved in what officers said was "the most vigorous Soviet reaction" to any American military movement of its kind since World War Two.

The Defence Department spokesman, Commander Fred Leeder, said the size and intensity of the reaction indicated that the American operations had come fairly close to sensitive Soviet areas. Vladivostok is the headquarters of the Soviet Far Eastern Fleet and the central poing for a complex of naval and air bases.

The episode took place not far from the same broad region where Soviet fighters shot down an airliner last year.

The Pentagon declined to give the precise locations of the carriers, the Carl Vinson and the Midway, and their escorts. Japanese military sources said they were within 50 miles of Vladivostok and US officials said the American vessels were considerably closer than that to Soviet territory. Commander Leeder said the American ships "very definitely did not leave international waters at any time".

Japanese press reports, which the Pentagon did not deny, said Soviet fighters and bombers flew very close to F14 fighters from the carriers.

An administration official expressed concern about possible diplomatic repercussions given Soviet sensitivities about intrusions in the area and the American-Soviet arms talks next month.

Several officials denied the episode had taken place, even as the Pentagon spokesman was confirming it.

The State Department said that as far as it knew, Washington had received no protest from the Soviet Union. But the Japanese Government, which has complained of repeated Soviet intrusion into its airspace, had made inquiries to the United States.

Tokyo had raised questions about conducting this kind of exercise so close to Soviet territorial waters and sensitive military installations and has asked for an explanation. The inquiry was evidently intended to get the matter resolved before a visit here next month by the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Commander Leeder said the carriers completed a large exercise, Fleetex 85, early this month, then moved into the Sea of Japan, not far from Vladivostok, for several days.

Fleetex 85 was approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but it was unclear who approved the subsequent operation.

Washington seeks new extradition agreement

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States and Britain have agreed to renegotiate their extradition agreements to stop terrorists from the IRA and other groups escaping to a legal haven in America. Preliminary discussions between Washington and Westminster have already opened.

The US Administration is appalled at last week's decision by Judge John Aprizzo in New York to refuse to extradite a convicted IRA member and murderer because his crime was allegedly a political act. There is no appeal against the ruling.

Joseph Patrick Thomas Doherty, convicted of murdering a British soldier in Belfast, escaped from a jail there in June 1981, two days before a judge found him guilty of murder, attempted murder, possession of illegal weapons and membership of the IRA. He is being held in a New York prison without bail as an illegal alien and has applied for political asylum. If he is turned down, he will be deported.

Mr Stephen Trott, head of the criminal division of the United States Justice Department, told *The Times* that America would seek to renegotiate the extradition treaties with a number of countries "because we do not want unwittingly to provide sanctuary for these violent criminals". The aim was to remove the "political offence" exclusion of the treaties.

The judge's riling last week was outrageous. "I think it is crazy that terrorists can run across a border and repeal the whole penal code of a country. It does not make any sense. We have got to get rid of this political offence nonsense among free, friendly nations."

● The Home Office confirmed last night that officials had been "taking a look" at the extradition agreement, but denied it was with a view to negotiating a new one (Henry Stanhope writes).

"We are very happy with the treaty we have", a spokesman said.

New defence buyer to be paid £95,000

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced the appointment of a new Chief of Defence Procurement, who will be responsible for the spending of about £8 billion a year of government money and will be the highest paid man in Whitehall, with a salary of £95,000.

The job at the Ministry of Defence is to be taken from next March by Mr Peter Levene, at present chairman and managing director of United Scientific Holdings, a big defence contractor.

Until July Mr Levene was for six months personal adviser to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

The choice, which is certain to cause controversy, prompted a demand by Mr Bill McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, for a parliamentary inquiry "into the manner and circumstances of this outrageous appointment".

Mr Heseltine has in effect split the present job of Chief of Defence Procurement into two, with the present holder, Mr David Perry, moving to a newly-created post as Chief of Defence Equipment Collaboration, concentrating on multinational procurement projects.

Both Mr Levene, aged 43, and Mr Perry, who is 53, will have the status of Permanent



Mr Levene: Will have £8bn budget.

Secretary. Mr Perry, however, has a salary of £42,750, the standard rate for Permanent Secretaries.

Mr Levene said last night that he would be taking a cut in income. His last published salary with United Scientific Holdings was £140,000.

His appointment as a temporary adviser to Mr Heseltine caused controversy, with suggestions of possible conflicts of interest.

On taking up his new appointment at the ministry, initially for five years, he will sever his connections with United Scientific Holdings, where he will be succeeded as chairman by Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

'True poet' Ted Hughes is Laureate

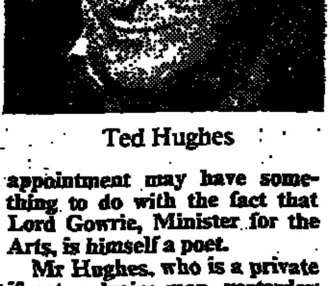
By Philip Howard Literary Editor

Ted Hughes has been appointed Poet Laureate to succeed Sir John Betjeman, which is a bit like appointing a grim young crow to replace a cuddly old teddy bear.

Hughes, aged 54, is not quite the youngest man ever to have been elevated to this official post: Tennyson was 41 when he became Laureate.

But Hughes is without doubt the most anti-Establishment, black, and acerbic poet to have become a court official, with the expectation, if not the duty, that he will compose odes in celebration of royal birthdays and state occasions.

He is a true poet, which is more than can be said for some of his predecessors, and his



Ted Hughes

appointment may have something to do with the fact that Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, is himself a poet.

Mr Hughes, who is a private if not reclusive man, yesterday firmly refused all invitations from the hounds of Fleet Street to compose an instant poem.

Continued on back page, col 6

Oil fears push sterling to further low

The pound dropped 1.1 cents to a new low of $1.1740 yesterday as selling pressure continued amid uncertainties over world oil prices. The sterling index, which measures the pound's average value, fell 0.3 to 73.3, also a record low (David Smith, Economics Correspondent, writes). Later in New York, the pound dropped to $1.1700.

Trading on foreign exchanges has been light in the Christmas run-up, but dealers report that sentiment has moved sharply against the pound. The main factor has been a belief that oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, now meeting in Geneva, will fail to stem the downward pressure on oil prices.

Oil prices on the spot market weakened further yesterday, the price of North Sea Brent crude oil falling 15 cents to $26.85 a barrel, compared with an official price of $28.65.

Dealers also attributed sterling's weakness to strong growth in money supply and high sector borrowing. It was also announced yesterday that average earnings rose by 8.2 per cent in the 12 months to October.

Elsewhere too the pound was generally weak, losing 1.8 pfennigs to DM3.6395, and nearly six centimes to Fr11.1455.

Kenneth Fleet, page 15

Pits strike could go on for years, says Willis

The coal strike could go on for years, Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday, as the National Union of Mineworkers took legal action to establish its authority over 30,000 dissident Nottinghamshire pitmen (our Industrial Editor writes).

His comments came at the end of a TUC general council meeting which expressed "grave dismay" at the refusal of Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to use his offices to encourage negotiations.

Mr Willis gave a "very sombre" report and said that the government policy of relying on a drift back to work presented a real danger.

The union's Nottinghamshire council meets today to approve rule changes that will exempt the area from a new disciplinary procedure and take away from the national executive the right to call strikes in the area.

In the High Court yesterday the union was given leave to proceed with its action against the Nottinghamshire rebels, but Mr Justice Warner refused to grant a temporary injunction stopping the rule changes.

In the past few days, a further £250,000 has been conveyed to the Miners' Solidarity Fund.

Star Wars fear raised by Kinnock

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The American "Star Wars" project poses a greater threat to Nato than any external pressure from the Soviet Union, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said after a three-hour meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov in London yesterday.

"Mr Gorbachov understood the commitment we in the Labour Party have to Nato, and there was no aspiration by the Soviet Union to disturb the cohesion of the alliance." It was recognized that the alliance facilitated negotiation and gave a balance and equlibrium in Europe, Mr Kinnoch said.

Mr Gorbachov, who also met Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, as part of the day's round of engagements, told Mr Kinnock there would be no Soviet preconditions on talks with the United States.

Mr Denis Healey, chief opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, explained: "What the Russians are really saying is that if the Americans decide to go ahead with the so-called Star Wars system, the Russians, instead of trying to copy them, may decide to adopt methods of penetrating whatever system the Americans produce, and that will obviously set limits to the possibility of negotiating cuts in offensive missiles."

The Labour leader raised specific cases of human rights with Mr Gorbachov and urged the restoration of arrangements for people to be able to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Kinnock said Mr Gorbachov had again taken a very stern line on the observance of Soviet law

Photograph, page 2
United front, page 5

Rugby tries to make scrum a safer place

By Tim Glover

A disturbing increase in injuries in Rugby Union has prompted a move for revolutionary changes which, it is hoped, will make the game safer and more attractive at all levels. The Rugby Football Union, reacting to the findings of a working party on injuries, is recommending the elimination of the current scourges of the British game – pile-ups and collapsed scrums.

The RFU will approach the International Board, the game's ruling body, in Paris in March with moves to rewrite laws 19 and 20, which cover fundamental aspects of the sport, including rucks, mauls and scrums.

Any player wilfully lying on the ball will be penalized and

Dangerous move: shoulders moving below hips, collapsing the scrum

any bent-shouldered prop forward had better hang up his boots. The shoulders of forwards must not be lowere than the hips. It is hopeful that this will prevent a scrum collapsing, a dangerous practice which can lead to broken necks and spinal injuries.

The working party watched the Wasps v Richmond game this season in which there were 39 scrums, 19 of which collapsed. They have also discovered that of 63 players admitted to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in a 30-year period, 37 were forwards, 20 of them from the front row of the pack. Of the total, 16 were schoolboys and it was initially to allay parental anxiety that the working party was formed two years ago.

John Kendall-Carpenter, a member of the working party and headmaster of Wellington School, Somerset, said: "Our appeal is diminishing." Mr Kendall-Carpenter, who is also a member of the International Board and a former England international, added: "That is why we literally want to get our game back on its feet.

"He thinks that rugby in Britain has degenerated into a kind of Eton Wall Game with "everyone heaving around in a dangerous heap." The RFU's innovations have already been adopted at under-19 level, and the results, the working party told a press conference at the East India Club, have been impressive.

England now spends £100,000 a year in insurance cover for schoolboy rugby, but Ian Beer, the chairman of the working party, said: "We don't consider the game has become too dangerous although people's approach to it has become more competitive and aggressive.

Law changes, page 20

Ulster keeps 'supergrass' trials despite 35 acquittals

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The police in Northern Ireland will continue to use "supergrass" evidence despite the heavy setback suffered with the acquittal of 35 people in the Raymond Gilmour trial.

As the 26 people released after the collapse of the trial on Tuesday threatened to apply to the European Court of Human Rights for compensation, lawyers and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, were preparing for tomorrow's judgement on the appeal by 14 "loyalists" convicted on the word of the Ulster Volunteer Force informer Joseph Benett.

Several Unionist politicians argued yesterday that the decision by Northern Ireland's Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lowry, to reject the evidence of Gilmour vindicated the use of accomplice evidence.

Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down South, said that it had been alleged that judges do not apply sufficiently strict rules to the credibility of informers. "What has happened in this trial shows not that the RUC were wrong to bring the prosecution, but that judges in fact, especially as they sit without a jury, are specially careful to ensure that the informer is credible."

But Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said the trial called into question the whole system.

In Londonderry there was jubilation at the acquittals, but Provisional Sinn Fein, political wing of the Provisional IRA, said that it had been an attempt to show the impartiality of British justice and to bolster the strategy of using informers. Those released alleged that some of them would become victims of a "shoot to kill policy" which they claimed has been adopted by the security forces.

Since September 1983, when an alleged Provisional IRA informer, Robert Lean, retracted statements, the number of "supergrasses" has fallen.

But 143 people have been found guilty on accomplice evidence during the past four years and there are three "supergrass" trials pending.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, admitted that giving immunity was "distasteful" to many people but said: "The police have an inescapable duty, acting within the law, to bring terrorist suspects before the court on the best evidence available".

● Frogmen searched a border river yesterday for one of the Maze prison escapers, missing since a gun battle between SAS soldiers and a Provisional IRA gang at Kesh, co Fermanagh nearly three weeks ago. Kieran Fleming, aged 24 is feared to have drowned in the Bannagh

Russians plan new embassy buildings

By Charles Knevitt
Architecture Correspondent

The Soviet Embassy in London is planning to build a huge office, residential and cultural complex in Earls Court, west London, and a new official residence in Kensington Palace Gardens.

The Earls Court site, at 245, Warwick Road, has been under consideration for some time, as part of a reciprocal arrangement whereby the Russians find a new site for the British Embassy in Moscow.

● Members of the Soviet delegation visiting Britain laid a wreath at Karl Marx's tomb in Highgate cemetary yesterday. But Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the senior Politburo member, was not among them. Instead Mr Leonid Zamyatin, Chief spokesman of the the Soviet Central Committee, was the main dignitary.

● The advantage which the Soviet Union enjoys over Nato in front line aircraft in Europe is becoming increasingly critical, according to the 1984-85 edition of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, (Jane's Publishing Company, £60), published today.



Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, greeting Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet Politburo member, on his arrival for talks at the House of Commons yesterday. Mr Gorbachov also saw the Liberal and Social Democratic Party leaders.

Derbyshire to sue Jenkin over curbs on spending

Derbyshire County Council yesterday decided to take legal proceedings in the High Court against Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, over his decision on the county's expenditure targets which could affect many services.

Even if the council was to budget at the Government's grant-related expenditure figure, it would suffer grant penalties of £42 million, councillors were told at the meeting in Matlock.

A joint report by the director and treasurer of the council said: "The council have taken legal advice from two leading counsel on whether Mr Jenkin acted within the law which required him, when issuing expenditure targets, to do so on the basis which applied to all authorities. Both counsel are of the view that Mr Jenkin may have acted unreasonably."

Mr David Bookbinder, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said that it was estimated that Derbyshire's rates would go up by one-third if the decision by Mr Jenkin was allowed to stand.

● Planned spending by the Inner London Education Authority which escaped government spending curbs in the autumn was caught in a legal trap yesterday (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

Most of the £750,000 allocated for campaigning against government policy will be frozen while the authority decides whether to appeal against a High Court judgement.

Mr Justice Glidewell found in favour of Westminster City Council, which had claimed that the money should not be spent. The judge ruled that authority members had taken into account "irrelevant considerations" in approving the spending.

● Liverpool City Council yesterday approved the closure of the Strawberry Field children's home, which inspired a Beatles' song based on John Lennon's childhood memories.

Woman killed

Mrs Adeline Williams, aged 70, who was housebound with chronic arthritis, was found dead yesterday at her home in Ystalyfera, West Glamorgan. The house had been ramsacked and several fires started. The police are treating the death as murder.

Robberies prevalent as crime figures rise

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Crime recorded by police rose sharply in the third quarter of this year. There was a 9 per cent increase compared with the same period of 1983.

The biggest increase, of 17 per cent, was in robbery, 6,100 offences, followed by criminal damage with a 15 per cent rise to 120,300 offences.

Other rises were burglary (13 per cent to 207,800 offences), theft and handling stolen goods (8 per cent to 453,000), fraud and forgery (2 per cent to 31,600). But violence against the person remained almost static with only a 0.6 per cent increase to 30,800.

These latest crime figures, reported in a Home Office statistical bulletin yesterday, mean that reported crime in the first nine months of this year was up by 7 per cent on the same period last year.

The Home Office says that, when seasonal variations are allowed for the number of offences recorded has risen in each quarter since the third quarter of 1983.

The *Bulletin* discounts the effect of figures from the miners' dispute.

Home Office Statistical Bulletin. Notifiable offences recordea by the Police in England and Wales – third quarter 1984. Statistical Department, Tolsworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DS (£1.50).

Strike-bound Ford still meets demand

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ford of Britain, whose car output has been at a standstill for more than a month, claimed yesterday that it was meeting demand from stock and imports but that it has not increased deliveries from continental plants.

With no immediate end in sight of the strike by 270 machinists which has halted production of Orion, Escort, Sierra and Fiesta cars, the company was reluctant to comment in detail on how it planned to maintain supplies to dealers. But a spokesman said that this month the average 42 per cent import content of Ford's United Kingdom car sales was not being exceeded.

In the first 18 days of December, Ford's market share was down to less than 25 per cent compared with 27.9 per cent for the first 11 months of the year although the company said it had "reasonably healthy" stocks.

The absence of any increase in imports and Ford's apparent lack of immediate concern about meeting demand, will fuel trade union suspicion that the company is prepared to ride out the present dispute and give few concessions.

In addition, the strike has come at a time when car sales traditionally fall to meagre levels, and this year they have declined further than in recent years.

The January boom in car sales is experienced across Europe, unlike the peculiar August rush in the United Kingdom, and this will be another factor in the Europe factories maintaining their output for domestic sale.

The current dispute, which has taken on the mantle of "the forgotten strike" because of the overshadowing effect of the miners' dispute, has so far caused lost output of 41,600 cars with a showroom value of £239 million and the lay off of 8,500 manual workers.

Earlier this week, impasse was reached in talks.

Yorkshire's Operation Santa Claus

By Paul Vallaley

The house at 301, Chapletown Road, in Leeds, is the fulfilment of many a child's fantasies about Santa's toy factory.

It is a Victorian mansion whose rooms are full of stacked boxes of toys. Each door or wall carries a notice to indicate the type of presents the room contains: "ages 1-3", "Girls, aged 9-11" or "Boys, 12-13".

In every corner lie thousands of parcels, already in their Christmas paper. Sitting on the floor in the biggest room, before a small coal fire and under a glittering Christmas tree, one of Santa's helpers is steadily working her way through a pile of Brock the Badger jigsaws with rolls of tape and wrapping paper.

There are 55,000 miners on strike in the Yorkshire coalfield, the biggest in Britain. Organizing food for the families and toys for the children this Christmas is a huge task.

The National Union of Mineworkers has delegated the matter to individual branches, supervised by the four union panels which make up the Yorkshire coalfield.

But as Christmas approaches the Leeds miners' support group, Operation Food Force, which serves the northern panel, has turned its attention from food to gifts to help those pits which have not been "adopted" by an affluent local trade union or Labour Party group.

"So far we have raised more than £5,000. We have bought and wrapped so many presents we have lost count", Miss Janis Goodman said, without pausing from her jigsaw wrapping. "And even today, another 100 requests for toys have come in."

Funds have been raised from brass band concerts, collections at Rugby League matches and folk evenings, as well as cavalcades, discotheques and a sponsored skydive by a striking miner who is a former member of The Parachute Regiment.

The result is that every miner's child in the Yorkshire coalfield will receive at least one present on Christmas Day. Where individual collieries have been particularly enterprising they may have two or more.

Strike threat over coal trains

By Staff Reporters

Union leaders are threatening to take strike action over moves by British Rail to get coal trains moving again in the strike-bound Midlands area.

A meeting between the National Union of Railwaymen and the train drivers' union Aslef is to be held after Christmas and is likely to call for selective strike action in protest at BR's successful attempts this week to move two trains using staff from the Coalville depot in Leicestershire.

An NUR official said last night: "We have to show BR that we are prepared to defend our members and take action in line with the executive's decision to black movements of coal.

No deep-mined coal has been moved by trains from Coalville since the start of the miner's strike 40 weeks ago, although coal from opencast sites has been carried. When BR tried similar tactics at the Shirebrook depot in Derbyshire, the unions threatened to call out on strike key signalmen which would have halted trains on the London to Scotland east coast route.

Union officials claim that the two rail workers used at Coalville this week were members of the breakaway Federation of Professional Railwaymen which was formed by disaffected members of the NUR.

BR backed down in the face of the previous threat of action over the Shirebrook movements where the union had threatened to launch a campaign of guerrilla industrial action following the disruption caused by signalmen.

● Two hundred children of striking miners in the Durham coalfield will not receive the Christmas present they expected at a party on Saturday after moves by government solicitors yesterday to block funds sent to strikers by students at the Polytechnic of North London.

The vicar of Christchurch, New Seaham, the Rev Peter Holland said he had been told by the Treasury Solicitor not to accept any further cheques from the students' union.

A cheque for £5,000 which he had banked last Friday had been stopped after a High Court injunction which restrained the executive of the students' union from allocating funds to any activity not directly related to student needs.

● Demand for coal in Britain by the year 2000 is likely to be at least 25 million tonnes less than forecast by the National Coal Board, according to the Henley Centre for Forecasting. Coal will provide only 30 per cent of energy requirements with demand hovering around 87 million tonnes a year, their report said yesterday.

Pits' holiday closures

The coal industry begins its holiday period on Christmas Eve. With regional variations, the holiday ends in the first days of January. Collieries can nominate which days they want to work.

In Scotland all pits will be shut on December 24 and 25. On December 26 all except two will be open for work. (Pits on strike are classed as open for work by the National Coal Board.)

On December 31 all pits in Scotland will be on holiday and most collieries in Scotland will remain on holiday for the following week.

In the rest of the country all pits will be shut December 24 and 25 and most but not all will take holidays on December 26, 27 and 28. December 29 is a Saturday and therefore not a production day. On December 31 and January 1 all collieries will be shut and most will be open for work on January 2.



Young hopeful: Samantha Evans, aged three, with toys collected in Leeds for the children of striking miners in Yorkshire. (Photograph: Andrew Varley).

Jenkin's cash squeeze

More homes fall into disrepair

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The number of houses and flats in England defined by surveyors to be in "serious disrepair" increased by 21 per cent to 1,049,000 in the 10 years from 1971 to 1981.

The impact of Tuesday's housing capital allocation on home improvement grants suggests that the figure will grow further by 1991. Throughout the country councils have begun to freeze their waiting lists for grants. Existing commitments will be honoured, but the amount of house renovation and improvement supported by public funds will decline sharply next year.

Little wonder, the cynics say, that Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State forthe Environment, is planning to cancel the survey of house conditions planned for 1986 and has moved to disband the specialist unit in his department that has built up an impressive and worrying dossier on the state of the nation's housing.

The Institute of Housing estimates that the number of home improvement grants made in 1985-86 could drop to 80,000 from this year's likely total of around 200,000. Many councils have already stopped accepting applications from home owners. One council, Bristol, even tried to rescind commitments already entered into.

In most cases, home owners who have had their applications accepted will be allowed to get on with the work, but the outlook for intending improvers is bleak.

The efforts made earlier this year by Mr Jenkin to rein in council spending on housing had some effect on the volume of building: the number of new dwellings started by councils fell to a low of 1,800 in October. Extrapolating that figure, the total of new starts in 1985-86 could be about 30,000 for Great Britain.

A parallel fall is predicted in the volume of private housebuilding because of general economic conditions and rising house prices in desirable areas where there is little spare land. About 170,000 dwellings are likely to be started next year (30,000 public sector and 140,000 private), about half the figure for the mid-1970s.

Councils are likely to cancel or defer building schems, with a direct effect on employment and income among builders. Modernization of council estates and remedying of defective schemes such as the Orlit houses will also be deferred indefinitely. At some point the reduction of council houses will mean more people on council registers of homelessness for longer periods. In inner London, always a blackspot, 6.7 households in every thousand are now officially accepted as homeless.

Municipal officials make the point that neglected repairs mean more eventual expense. If roofs or panels are left unrepaired damp can penetrate and push up the eventual cost, possibly even call for demolition.

Errors led to fatal gas blast

By Ronald Faux

A gas explosion which killed six people and destroyed an Aberdeen hotel might have been prevented if Scottish gas had taken reasonable precautions, a fatal accident inquiry has found.

In his findings, published yesterday, on the explosion at the Royal Darroch Hotel at Cults on October 25, Sheriff Principal Stewart Bell said the explosion was triggered when an impulse pipe was broken in a governor near by where Scottish Gas men were working.

The fracture led to medium-pressure gas bursting the Royal Daroch's low-pressure meters and then igniting.

Sheriff Bell added that the workmen should have been supervised and the explosion would probably have been prevented if meter governors had been fitted.

He criticized lack of liaison between the distribution and service departments of Scottish Gas.

New towns: 4

Success story north of the border

While in England new towns are moving steadily towards their demise, there is no such rush to wind up Scottish new towns. In the last article of the series CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, Property Correspondent, explains that they are proving a great success for the Scottish economy.

East Kilbride was the first Scottish new town to be designated in 1947, and it is likely to be the first to be wound up, but not yet.

It is probably the most successful of the five new towns in Scotland: the others being Cumbernauld, Glenrothes, Irvine and Livingston, but all five are still developing and, in the words of Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, still have an "important and continuing role" to play in attracting investment projects to Scotland and contributing to the economy "while pursuing the task of creating fully developed and balanced communities".

Mr Younger announced recently that none of the new town corporations would begin winding up before 1990 and then only when they reached a trigger of a percentage of their designated populations. For East Kilbride, whose population now stands at 70,500, the trigger is 74,250; 90 per cent of its designated 82,500 population. It means the town will have a minimum of 10 years in which to complete its development, which includes plans for a further 7,000 jobs, a private housing area for 2,500 dwellings on its northern boundary, and a new leisure and shopping extension in the town centre.

Further investment totalling £276 million – £105 million public and £171 million from the private sector – is planned during this period and Mr George Young, managing director of the corporation, believes they can achieve "in terms of jobs and houses the commitment of a sufficiently large number of second generation people to ensure the economic and social stability of the town".

East Kilbride, nine miles south of Glasgow and set up to ease Glasgow's post-war housing difficulties and help broaden the economy of the west of Scotland, was created around the villages of East Kilbride and Maxwelltown which had a combined population of 2,400. A generation later it is the sixth largest town or city in Scotland, and the fact that the second generation is now looking for jobs and houses has given it a new impetus.

It has also brought difficulties, for many of the houses built in the early years need substantial repairs. When the new town corporation does wind up the housing stock is due to be transferred to the district council. The Labour-controlled council wants the houses, but is concerned at their state of repair and is seeking high standards of modernization. During the next 10 years accordingly the corporation has earmarked £40 million for the work, spending up to £9,000 on each house at a rate of about 500 a year.

The corporation has built some 22,000 flats and houses of which it has sold 6,300, and the housing stock is one of the issues over which the corporation and local authority have had disagreements. In general, however, the relationship between the two bodies, one elected the other appointed, is harmonious, for the council acknowledges that its new town brother can do things which it would be unable to achieve because of financial constraints.

Mr Young explained enthusiastically that the new towns in Scotland are a success story. "Unlike the pessimistic faces of some of the English new towns, we are optimistic. Unlike England the Scottish new towns are the major growth points and 85 per cent of foreign investment in Scotland is in the new towns."

Given that record he believes the Secretary of State will ensure that as little difficulty is put in the way as possible. There is no decision yet as to the destination of the new towns' commercial and industrial assets when they are finally wound up.

With increasing emphasis on urban regeneration and less on development in the new towns, it might seem that East Kilbride's targets are ambitious, and it is certainly finding it more difficult to attract finance from the Government. The resulting improvements apparent in Glasgow, however, delight the corporation. "Since most people visiting us come through Glasgow, to see it run down has been a handicap for us. Therefore nothing could be better than a reinvigorated Glasgow to give further encouragement to visitors", Mr Young says.

So despite the rival claims of the cities, and despite increasing competition in attracting investment from the other new towns, East Kilbride is thriving. Last year it made a profit for the fifteenth year running. Not surprisingly therefore the Secretary of State has declared "the Scottish Development Corporation will continue to do a good job and enjoy the full support of this government".

Concluded

Solicitor cleared on appeal

A south coast solicitor, Mr Richard Sotnick, aged 49, who was fined £10,000 for an alleged conveyancing fraud, was cleared by three Appeal Court judges in London yesterday.

Mr Sotnick, of Craneswater Park, Southsea, Hampshire, was convicted at Winchester Crown court in June last year of attempting to obtain a "deed of release" by deception.

Lord Justice May, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Kennedy ruled that the jury's verdict was "unsafe and unsatisfactory." They held that the summing-up of the case by Mr Justice Mars-Jones had not been as balanced as it should have been.

Tory recovers

Mr Donald MacLean, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, who was injured in the Brighton bomb explosion in October, was released from the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, yesterday. His wife, Muriel, died last month of her injuries.

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 36; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150

هكذا من الاصل

Wife of peer choked to death from overdose of heroin after late parties

Lady Gormanston, wife of Lord Gormanston, premier viscount of Ireland, died from the effects of an overdose of heroin, an inquest at Westminster Coroners Court, London, was told yesterday.

Lady Gormanston, aged 29, a mother of two, was found collapsed in the back of a friend's car early one day last month after two late-night parties, and died an hour later in the Westminster Hospital, London.

Dr Ian West, the pathologist, told Westminster Coroners' Court that traces of cocaine were found in the body, but his main finding was a "substantial dose – a very high level of morphine", the residue of heroin which she had "probably snorted" a few hours before.

"She died from the effects of heroin which would have induced vomitting, and I give the cause of death aspiration of vomit due to opiate overdose."

Dr Knapman, recording a verdict of non-dependent abuse of drugs, said: "One thing is conspicuous in its absence, of all the evidence, how did she come by the heroin and cocaine? No one is able to help us.

"This is another case of a death through heroin. The Lord Chief Justice himself has recently drawn attention to the dangers of cocaine and this is a melancholy description of what can happen."

Lord Gormanston, aged 45, told the court that he and his wife left their home at Delmy House, Thurloe Place, South Kensington, London, at 10pm on Saturday, November 17, and spent a few hours at a party hosted by Mr Alex Butler, a company director, at his house in Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill, London.

After a few drinks the couple were driven to the home of Mr Brian Walsh, an antique dealer and an acquaintance of Lord Gormanston, in Fulham Road, west London.

Lord Gormanston was unable to say where his wife had obtained the drugs or when she had taken them. He put her malaise down to a combination of alcohol and tablets she had taken for an allergy.

Mr Walsh said in evidence that after drinking champagne and watching videos he fell asleep and in the early hours was woken by Lord Gormanston, who was concerned that he could not rouse his wife. "We carried her downstairs to the car, and we took her to Gwen's".

Asked if he knew when Lady Gormanston had taken cocaine and heroin, Mr Walsh said: "I have no idea. I saw nothing of that at the party."

Lord Gormanston, who does not drive, was directing him to the home in Ebury Mews, Belgravia, south-west London, of Mrs Gwendoline d'Urso, a close friend of Lady Gormanston, when police followed them because the vehicle was being driven erratically. The police called for assistance when Lord Gormanston identified himself, and Lady Gormanston was found in a state of collapse.

Police Constable Douglas Tullock told the inquest that shortly after 7am on November 18 he noticed the car Mr Walsh was driving.

"He had not done anything wrong. It was just the manner of his driving. He seemed to be going very fast but seemed lost".

PC Tullock said that he stopped the car and after Lord Gormanston produced his security pass for the House of Lords he asked Mr Walsh, the driver, for identification. Mr Walsh could not produce anything to verify his ownership of the car and he searched the vehicle and found Lady Gormanston collapsed on the back seat.

When he said it looked as though Lady Gormanston had taken a drug overdose, Mr Walsh replied: "That's enough officer. There is no need for that. What's your number?".

Lord Gormanston had said: "It's all right – she's been like this before. She's taken some tablets for asthma and she's had a drink". He called for assistance, and Lady Gormanston was taken by ambulance to Westminster Hospital where she died at 8.10am.



Lady Gormanston: a fatal overdose; and Lord Gormanston: concerned at wife's condition.

Drug epidemic among privileged young

By Robin Young

Cocaine and heroin are widespread among the party-going sets of London's wealthiest districts. Many victims are young businessmen with public school backgrounds. Such people are reckoned to occupy at least a third of the beds at the Charter Clinic in Chelsea, where treatment for drug dependency costs £20 an hour.

In fashionable night clubs cocaine is sold every night at prices up to £100 for a gram, and heroin, with a street value of about £30,000 a pound, is reckoned by users to be a cheaper form of entertainment than going to the cinema or public house. As little as £10 worth can keep a user happy for 24 hours.

Heroin addiction has multiplied sixfold in Britain in the past five years but Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, recently quoted an expert as saying that cocaine, often called the drug-user's champagne, was potentially the most lethal drug of the 1980s because many people do not realize how addictive it is.

Scotland Yard says that the latest fashion among the smart set for "speedballing" – mixing heroin and cocaine – is peculiarly dangerous.

The inspiration of personal endurance and bravery

Faces of bravery: Princess Anne with the 10 recipients of "Children of Courage" awards and Mr Jim MacLean (Photograph: John Manning).



Princess presents awards to 'children of courage'

A cast of celebrities including the Two Ronies, Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett, Rod Hull and Emu, and Shakin Stevens, were at yesterday's presentations of children of courage awards by Princess Anne in Westminster Abbey.

The presentation of the annual awards to ten children aged from two to 13 came after a carol service conducted by the Dean of Westminster. Awards went to:

❶ Michael Ross, aged 13, who fought off three masked raiders at his village post office home in Moray, Scotland. He required hospital treatment for injuries after being clubbed with a wooden baton and punched as he fought to protect Mrs Ann Ross, his widowed mother, and grandmother aged 70.

"I just acted instinctively," he said yesterday. "I didn't stop to think."

❷ Andrew Boosey aged 11 of Tytherington Avon who took control of a speeding car when his mother who was driving was knocked unconscious

The mother was driving Andrew to a barber in Bristol when a bolting horse collided with the car Mrs Penelope Boosey collapsed and Andrew had to climb over and try to bring the car to a halt when it veered across the road

❸ Kelly Smith, aged 11, of Bromley, Kent, saved her family from a fire at their home. She went downstairs to make a cup of tea for her mother and found the living room on fire.

She went to a neighbour to telephone the fire brigade and then took her brother and sister to their grandparent's house nearby.

❹ Gary Plane, aged 3, of Cog Lane, Burnley, lost his legs after a gust of wind blew him into the path of a lorry.

Within three months he was walking on his first pair of artificial legs. Since then, he has worn out two pairs – and his parents.

"There's just no stopping Gary," said his mother Lynn.

❺ Dominic Jones, aged 12, of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, rugby tackled an escaping man during a police chase, after a police officer had called for help.

He was carried along for a short while before being forced to let go but the man was arrested shortly afterwards.

❻ Simon Wright, aged 9, of Selly Oak, Birmingham, saved his young cousin Andrew from being savaged by an alsatian dog.

While the pair were playing the dog suddenly jumped on Andrew's back. Simon grabbed it by the collar and hauled it away, returning it to the owner, and then carried Andrew indoors.

❼ Bradley Rudgley, aged 12, admitted he was terrified when he rescued his mother, grandmother, sister and her friend, both aged five, from their blazing car after an accident.

"I was very frightened, but I had to get them out so I just got on with it", said Bradley, of Sheering, Essex.

The car caught fire after a collision and his mother knocked unconscious. Bradley released her seat belt and helped her to safety, after helping the other passengers escape from the back of the car.

❽ Emma MacHean, aged two, is recovering from a crippling disease after a bone marrow transplant from her sister Louise.

❾ Louise MacHean, aged four, had to overcome her own fears about the operation which took place when Emma was aged nine months. "She was terrified", said her father Jim.

Emma faced only a few crippling years of life before the operation at the Westminster Children's Hospital, London.

❿ Gary Doogan, aged six, saved his best friend Steven Hendry, aged five, from an icy pond on Putney Heath, south London.

Gary ignored his fear of water, grabbed his friend's collar and hauled him out. "It was easy", he said.

Christmas boom for microwave cookers

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

After the video recorder and home computer sales boom the latest is that of microwave cookers, whose sales this year are expected to be up by more than half.

A microwave cooker is this year's most fashionable present from husband to wife, according to sales patterns at one of the biggest department stores of the John Lewis Partnership.

At the John Lewis store at Brent Cross, north London, the managing director, Mr Nicholas Walderman Brown, said: "This is the microwave cooker Christmas as far as we are concerned.

"A lot of wives seem to want them because they can turn out meals so quickly. Last year the popular demand was for a home computer; the year before it was the video recorder."

Department stores account for an unusually large proportion of microwave sales, according to a survey by Market Assessment.

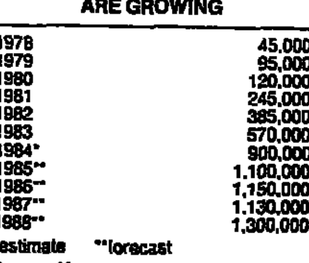
About 22 per cent of sales go through department stores, probably because the higher socio-economic groups have taken most readily to microwave cooking. Sales have also been greater in southern Britain than in the north.

Rumbelows, the electrical retailing chain, also report microwave sales in the run-up to Christmas to be at least double those of last year. They may prove to have risen by 60 per cent during 1984, Mr Peter Jackson, Rumbelows' marketing director, said.

In 1983 there was a 48 per cent increase in microwave sales and a further 58 per cent rise is forecast for this year in the Market Assessment survey. By the end of this year there are likely to be at least 2.3 million microwaves in use.

Japanese products dominate the market, but one cooker, expected soon to pass final acceptability tests, will be entirely British-made.

Market Assessment Product Group Report 46. (Market Assessment Publications, 2 Duncan Terrace, London N1 8BZ, £150).



HOW MICROWAVE SALES ARE GROWING

1978	45,000
1979	95,000
1980	120,000
1981	245,000
1982	385,000
1983	570,000
1984*	900,000
1985**	1,100,000
1986**	1,150,000
1987**	1,130,000
1988**	1,300,000

*estimate **forecast

Source: Microwave Oven Association and Market Assessment

Market shares by brand

	%
Toshiba	21
Sharp*	20
Tricity (Thorn EMI)*	14
Philips	13
Sanyo	8
National Panasonic	5

*UK assembly

Source: Market Assessment

Peer's divorce

Lord Camden, aged 53, was granted a special procedure divorce yesterday on the ground that he and his wife have lived apart for more than two years.

Mild winter blamed for bean surplus

Mild winter weather was blamed by management at the Heinz baked beans factory at North Walsham, Norfolk, yesterday as the reason for its decision to put 200 workers on a three-day week in January and instruct them to take a Christmas break of two weeks instead of nine days.

A spokesman said: "People have not been buying so many beans and other such foods to keep them warm. We are overstocked because of the mild weather".

Gems haul by armed raiders

Jewellery and gemstones worth several hundred thousand pounds were stolen yesterday when an armed gang raided the offices of a manufacturing jeweller in New Bond Street, central London.

Staff at NDC Ltd opened a security door to a man with a sack claiming to be a postman with a delivery. He then produced a handgun and two other raiders joined him.

Selfridge's win name ban

A south London trader who called his shop "Sellfridges" because he sold 'fridges was banned from using the name by a High Court judge yesterday.

Mr John Moore, who trades at Clapham High Street, is being sued by the owners of Selfridge's store in Oxford Street, who claim that his shop's name is likely to cause confusion. Last month Mr Moore was banned by the High Court from calling his shop "Harrodds" after a complaint from Harrods in Knightsbridge.

Silver stolen

Georgian silver cutlery worth £17,000 was stolen from the 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment by two men who knocked a soldier unconscious when he disturbed them in the officers' mess at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth Garrison, Wiltshire.

Joyride baby

Simone Redway, aged two, was driven away by a car thief in Birmingham yesterday after her father left her to buy a newspaper. She was found unharmed in the abandoned car.

Trophies theft

Kenny Dalglish, the Scotland and Liverpool footballer, was robbed last night of his trophies from his club's record-breaking 1983-1984 season when thieves broke into his home in Birkdale, Southport.

Dilemma for Anglicans

Stalemate on remarriage

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A substantial "thumbs-down" from the dioceses of the Church of England has left it with no policy at all, and little hope of one, on the remarriage of divorcees in church.

So far, 27 diocesan synods have rejected the most recent scheme for remarrying divorcees, with only 12 in favour. There are five decisions to come, of which at least two can be predicted with confidence as being against.

This leaves the Church of England with a complete stalemate. Authoritative sources say there is little prospect of another scheme being put forward, two having been rejected so far.

For some time to come, therefore, the decision on whether to marry divorced people in church will depend entirely on the attitude of the local vicar. Each clergyman has a right under English civil law to ignore the church's policy, laid down nearly 50 years ago, that divorcees should not be allowed a church wedding. An increasing number is expected to disregard that policy.

The stalemate arises from the repeated wish of the General Synod of the Church of England to find some way of authorizing the remarriage of divorcees, and the repeated disagreement of the diocesan synods, the clergy in particular, with this policy.

Twice now, a detailed scheme has received general synod approval, but been rejected at the diocesan level. Some clergymen will undoubtedly take this as moral grounds for sanctioning remarriage in church. Some have said thay were waiting for a final judgement before relaxing the rules, and will now feel there is no need to wait longer.

The House of Bishops of the general synod, who drew up the proposals now rejected by a majority of dioceses, will meet in January. Dr Montefiore is expected to urge it to persist, putting its scheme forward for final approval in the general synod in spite of the overwhelming evidence of its disfavour. The bishops are likely to prefer a period of "pause for reflection", perhaps pointing to the current committee of inquiry into the relationship between the church's view of marriage, and the civil law.

The verdicts of diocesan synods which have voted so far (since an earlier list was given in *The Times* on November 2) are as follows (to be carried they must pass in each of the three houses):

Bath and Wells: Lost, defeated by laity, overall vote 77 to 75; Birmingham: Carried, overall vote 87 to 45; Blackburn: Carried, overall vote 73 to 53; Canterbury: Carried, overall vote 63 to 27; Carlisle: Lost, overall vote 65 to 77; Chester: Lost, overall vote 36 to 91; Derby: Carried overall vote 87 to 59; Durham: Lost, overall vote 35 to 98; Guildford: Lost, defeated by laity, overall vote 67 to 66; Liverpool: Caried, overall vote 69 to 23; Manchester: Carried, overall vote 66 to 57; Newcastle: Lost, overall vote 21 to 51; Ripon: Carried, overall vote 75 to 44; Sheffield: Lost, Defeated by bishops, overall 72 to 45; Sodor and Man: Carried, overall vote 86 to 16; Worcester: Lost, overall vote 48 to 67; York: Lost overall vote 66 to 92.

British Library's cuts warning

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Senior officers of the British Library predicted yesterday that the Government's new arts budget will mean job losses, cuts in book conservation projects, and the export of precious books to foreign institutions.

Sir Fred Dainton, the chairman, said the Library had effectively suffered a 15 per cent cut in grant in the past five years. It had asked the Office of Arts and Libraries for a 6.5 per cent increase but had been given only 3 per cent.

Sir Fred predicted that the Library, which is already planning to shed 50 jobs, will have to look for more staff reductions.

Mr Kenneth Cooper, chief executive, said: "With the best will in the world, there are going to be some real cuts in our ability to acquire material coming on to the market."

The fall of the pound against the dollar had cost the library £500,000, Mr Cooper said, and the added cost of North American academic publications, together with the imposition of VAT on publishing, which is thought to be under consideration by the Government, could cost a further £500,000.

The first victim of the cuts will be the scheme to help libraries conserve collections of national importance, which paid out £305,036 last year. Existing undertakings will be honoured.

BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED BY THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Requests received ('000s): 2800, 2600, 2400, 2200, 2000, 1800, 1600

TOTAL; UK; BL

73/74 74/75 75/76 76/77 77/78 78/79 79/80 80/81 81/82 82/83 83/84

Thatcher portrait blamed

By Our Arts Correspondent

The National Portrait Gallery yesterday blamed the popularity of a controversial portrait of Mrs Thatcher for part of its loss of government funds.

The painting, by Rodrigo Moynihan, went on show at the gallery earlier this year, amid publicity about the fact that it appeared to give the Prime Minister something of a squint.

Public curiosity has swollen the gallery's attendances, and consequently the takings of its shop, with the result that Monday's arts budget reduced the body's operating grant by £87,000 it had proved so successful in raising its own revenues.

A rueful gallery director, Dr John Hayes, yesterday predicted that the cut will mean the end of touring exhibitions

"The publicity about the picture meant that lots of people came in to see it, and it is stil on show and just as popular. We also had the twentieth century permanent collection open in February and that brought a lot of visitors in."

The gallery expects its number of visitors to rise from 467,000 last year to 581,000 this year.

Revellers fly to snow and sun

A record number of Britons are flying abroad for Christmas, in pursuit of snow and sun. Package holidays to The Gambia and the ski slopes of Europe are well booked, according to tour operators.

Blue Sky Holidays said that it had sold out of package holidays to The Gambia some time ago. Its bookings for skiing holidays are up by 30 per cent on last year.

British Caledonian Charter, which provides seats for up to ten tour operators reports a 50 per cent increase in Christmas passengers. British Caledonian is flying home many Britons resident abroad, from places such as Hong Kong.

In Britain a white Christmas is unlikely. During this century London has had only four white Christmases.

British Airways has broken its Christmas mail record by moving 1,275 tonnes through its Heathrow mail terminal in one week. Its busiest day was last Friday.

Air mail coming into London from Europe is up by 16 per cent and correspondence from Britain to the United States has increased by 36 per cent. The mail terminal staff have handled more than 900,000 bags since the beginning of October.

The AA said that some of the heaviest road traffic yesterday was in Manchester, where there has been a late increase in Christmas shopping. Motorways are not expected to become busy until tomorrow.

Airline plans £288 peak return to US

A new airline plans to begin cut price flights to New York from Gatwick, Prestwick and Belfast next May at peak season return fares of £288.

British Emerald Airways is an Ulster-based company formed last year by New York tours operator Mr Bill Best, and now chaired by Mr Bill Walker, the MP for Tayside North who is secretary of the Conservatives' aviation committee at Westminster.

Mr Best announced yesterday he was investing £17 million in a second-hand DC10, and his aircraft would be registered in Britain and have a British crew.

It is predicted that 70 per cent of the airline's traffic would originate in the USA.

● A new super-ferry costing £40 million is to enter the North Sea service between Harwich and Hamburg within two years to cope with steadily expanding traffic between Britain and Germany, DFDS Seaways announced yesterday.

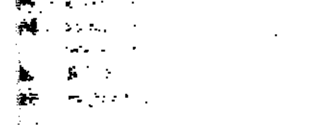
Tea is still the favourite drink despite rising cost

By John Young

Despite steep price rises and strong competition from other drinks, tea has retained its dominant place in British affections, according to the annual report of the Tea Council, published yesterday.

Prices at auctions have doubled, largely because of rapidly – increasing domestic demand in India, and retail prices have risen from about 34p to 56p a 125gram packet in the past eight months. But demand has remained stable at 168,000 tonnes this year.

The British drink an average of four cups of tea each every day, about half their total consumption of non-alcoholic beverages. It is more than twice as popular as coffee, and four cups are drunk for every equivalent unit of soft drinks. Two thirds of the tea sold is in bags. It accounts for 81 per cent of all beverages drunk first thing in the morning, 75 per cent at breakfast, 67 per cent at midday and 77 per cent in the afternoon.



PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 19 1984 Jenkin under fire ● DTI questions ● Withdrawal of whip

Government must stick to economic strategy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Battling against an incessant barrage of interruptions, protests and shouts of disagreement, **Mr Patrick Jenkin**, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons that local authority receipts from the sale of houses, land and other assets would remain the property of the local authorities and they would be able to spend them in future years.

Defending his previous day's statement detailing new arrangements for curtailing capital spending by local authorities, Mr Jenkin said they had to make sure that the pace at which the receipts were spent was compatible with the Government's spending plans which the Commons had already approved. The emergency debate went to the heart of the Government's economic strategy.

He said the Government had not cut the total of public expenditure for 1985-86. "We have kept on course", he said.

However, **Dr John Cunningham**, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, declared that the Government's record on local government spending was one of broken promises, regular changes of mind, misleading statements and prevarication, all of which added up to incompetence.

Opening the debate, he said it would enable them to record views on the Government's abysmal management. There was a crisis in housing. The situation was rapidly deteriorating, affecting home owners, tenants of private landlords and local authorities. Recent studies pointed to the rising need for more public investment in housing.

Over one million homes were unfit and 400,000 lacked basic amenities. Over half-a-million needed repairs costing more than £7,000 per dwelling and 2½ million homes required repairs costing over £2,000.

A particular worry (he said) and it should be the worry of the whole House, is the increasing level of homelessness, the cost to the taxpayer to board and lodging accomodation payments and the increasing use of hostels and hotels to accomodate homeless families. Over 80,000 households will be accepted as homeless this Christmas, and many more will be refused help.

This year would see the lowest number of council house completions ever recorded. The housing starts of the best year of this Government were 214,000, while the lowest number of starts in private and public housing under the last Labour Government totalled 264,000.

His feelings were shared by everyone associated with the building and construction industry. Mr Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, tried to argue yesterday that nothing had changed.

That can only be described (he continued) as an attempt to mislead the House.

In the current year £3,244 million had been allocated to local authorities, new towns and the housing corporation. The revised projection for next year was a reduction of £188 million on that figure. But the total cut in the money available to local authorities was well over £600 million, a real terms cut of about 20 per cent. This was why Mr Jenkin should not have been surprised about the reception *he got from all* over the House yesterday.

The Government (he said) has tried to work a con trick in saying housing gross provision is being maintained.

There was to be a housing cash limit of £324 million compared with over £1,000 million in the current financial year. The cut was actually *more than £700 million in the new* money the Treasury was putting into the housing programme.

It was said this was being done to maintain the cash limit for 1985-86. But he suspected, as did many involved in housing, that this limit *was already as good as broken* by resources committed for the coming financial year. It would be impossible to maintain it. If the limit were to be enforced in that way the Government would have to declare a total moratorium.

The Government's main argument was that action was necessary to prevent overspending. But no local authority could overspend by definition. They must balance their budgets. Any overspend in the minds of the Treasury, described by a Tory backbencher yesterday as voodoo economics, was simply an attempt to match the real world of local authority services and providing for the needs of the people and infrastructure, to the increasingly unreal world of Treasury economics and accounting.

There is the gravest suspicion (he said) that the Treasury is using capital receipts as a backdoor method of massaging down the PSBR figures and indirectly financing Government debt. Only the practitioners of voodoo economics, to use Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark *MP's colourful and accurate phrase,* would regard that as justifiable.

It was nonsense, economically and socially, to withold capital receipts from use in local government where they could be making an effective contribution to the regeneration of the British economy, housing people and creating jobs. What had changed since the Prime Minister said that they needed more capital spending by local government and in the public sector generally?

If it had been right in 1981 for Mr *Nigel Lawson, when a Treasury* minister, to argue that there should be no controls over local govern-



Cunningham: Actions added up to incompetence

ment of its own capital receipts, why was it right now for Mr Lawson, as Chancellor, to argue that they should be turning on the screw and *leading, presumably, to total control* of capital receipts.

What had changed in the economy since he changed his post? It was not that there had been an improvement, certainly not in housing or in the building and construction industry.

What had changed was that the election had come and gone and commitments given at the time had been abandoned, *as had the* commitment to owner-occupiers that they would get grants to improve their premises.

Apparently, following yesterday's statement, there was no longer a commitment to young people who *could* not afford to buy to be housed by councils. The commitment had been ditched by the Government.

Since he said that people should look to the private market could Mr Jenkin explain his department's press notice yesterday which said that building was decreasing in the private, as well as the public sector, under his policies? Did the Government not realize that the everyday experience for millions of people is appalling and inadequate housing was abysmal?

Did it not recognize the long-term damage to people's health of bad housing conditions and that every child living in overcrowded accomodation, short of space, of peace and quiet, short of the ability properly to communicate with parents, was a child probably damaged for life?

Was there no feeling among ministers about all that? How incredibly stupid it was to allow the housing stock, urban infrastructure and the education provision of the country to deteriorate and to believe it was sound economics. To the question whether the Government recognized the effect of all that on the people, the answer could only be "No".

This crass and stupid administration was imposing appalling sacrifices on people through its *policies. Conservative* MPs should not shoot the messenger as they had yesterday. Now was a time to force a change if they wanted one.

If they are concerned about democracy, employment, about the building and construction industry, and above all concerned about people (he said) they *will join us in* the lobbies.

The Government's plans for local authority capital spending remained exactly as provided in the Autumn statement.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C): *The* local authorities have in their possession capital receipts. They can spend these capital receipts on housing or whatever wit out borrowing more money and without raising extra taxation. For the life of me, I cannot see the economic objection to that.

Mr Jenkin said that in the last two years local authorities in England and Wales had been spending relatively well above the Government's cash limits for each year. In 1983-84, the overspend in England was £368 million. For the present year it could be £500 million even after the Govenment's request for restraint.

Councils were able to exceed that national cash limit because they were free to spend part of the receipts from the sale of council houses and other assets on top of their allocations. Because of the undoubted success of the right to buy policy, the total amount of unspent capital receipts was now £5,000 million.

If councils were to spend as much of this as they were allowed under present rules there would be another large national overspend in 1985-86. It could amount to £1,000 million or even more. That would be a direct claim on the contingency reserve. It would add to the public sector borrowing requirement. (Loud and long interruptions)

The issue is at the heart of the Government's economic strategy. He was not just talking about tens or *twenties of millions of pounds* but £1,000m or more.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that Mr Cunningham had forgotten that when Labour was in office there had been a cut in capital expenditure on *housing of 45 per cent.*

Conservative MPs should bear in mind that if Labour had been in office, there would have been no council house sales, and no capital receipts. The only way that party could have sustained a capital investment programme for housing would have been by higher borrowing or higher taxation.

Public expenditure plans for next year had been announced in the Autumn Statement on November 12 and approved by the House on December 6.

He had been asked why this affected the PSBR. When a council sold a house, say for £10,000, that money, if it was not spent in the year in which it was received, would be used either to reduce the council's borrowing or it would lend on to someone else. In either case it reduced the council's net borrowing.

That reduction in borrowing reduced total public sector borrowing requirement for the year in which that £10,000 was received. These reductions had already been taken into account each year in the public expenditure White Paper figures.

If in a later year the council decided to spend that £10,000, then it would have to borrow back the money in order to finance it.

Dr Cunningham: If this kindergarten economics is true now, why was it not true in 1981?

Mr Jenkin: It was true then. When the receipts were taken in and not spent, they went to reduce the claim on the PSBR.

Dr Cunningham: He has a strange memory. *In 1981 there* were no central Government imposed controls on expenditure of receipts of local authorities.

Mr Jenkin: It was taken into account. It it was not treated as an addition to the PSBR when it was *spent, what happened* was it was being accounted for twice.

Mr Peter Tapsell (Lindsey East C): In the leading article in the *Financial Times* today, the newspaper considers that argument in some detail and concluded that it was a purely statistical consideration with no real relevance.

Mr Jenkin: I have read it. That writer is not responsible for making the figures add up at the end of the day. (Interrupions)

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, C): There are some of us who would like to help him. We do not want to vote with the Opposition.

In a real world, could he give some assurance to local authorities who are in great difficulty, that *he* would at least abandon from time to time this irrational argument and say that he will give them some latitude in public capital expenditure? That would at least help us.

Mr Jenkin: These are not academic arguments. They are real arguments which affect the management of the economy.

The Government agreed that the public sector must continue to provide housing for those who could not afford to buy or who had special needs. The public sector housing programme for next year would be £3,055 million. Those *public resources had to be better* directed. Massive increases in the municipal solution were not the *answer.*

Total capital investment in the economy, both public and private, was at its highest ever level – about £55 billion – and the Government expected that total to be exceeded in 1985, reaching nearly £60 billion.

Because the Government had stuck to its economic strategy they were now getting this capital investment. If that was to be sustained in construction and elsewhere, they must continue to control public spending and borrowing to keep interest rates down and beat inflation and that was why the Government deserved support.

Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) said the local councils' £5,000m reserves were not all in cash. Much of it had been lent out to tenants to help them buy their council homes, and others.

Under the Housing Act 1980 councils were allowed to spend up to 50 per cent of the money they



Clark: Government has stuck to strategy

received from the sale of houses and land. This had been reduced to 40 per cent and now to 20 per cent. So it was incorrect to say this was a new Government policy.

All the Government are doing (he added) is saying the pace at which councils can spend has to be restricted so that demands on the market, by the public sector, is contained within £8,500 million.

It is right for Mr Jenkin, and the Government are to be commended, that despite all the vested interests and the Opposition, they have stuck religiously to their economic strategy and we are enjoying the lowest rate of inflation we have had for many years.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down OUP) said even if it took refuge in the argument that its policy was to reduce taxation, the Government was still destitute for a defence for the assault it had delivered on local government.

He and his OUP colleagues were returned to say to the House that their constituents demanded that there be restored to them the same democratic local government that was enjoyed in the rest of the UK. It would be a contradiction if they did not use their voice and vote against the destruction of the democratic principle in the UK.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, C), former secretary of State for the Environment, said Mr Jenkin's statement had appeared irrational and was erratic, in the context of the request by the Prime Minister for a speeding up of capital expenditure. It was impossible to plan public expenditure except on a rational and long-term basis.

He would abstain tonight and leave open his attitude to the *comibg orders.* That would depend on how far Mr Jenkin could give an assurance that the Government would look at the problems of the inner cities, some of which were grave and desperate.

Mr Jenkin said that the statement had nothing to do with the substantial sums earmarked under the urban programme.

Mr Rippon said that could be clarified in further discussions with local authorities. He was concerned that there was no dialogue between the Government and local authority associations.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said the villain of the piece was not Mr Jenkin but Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

If the Government would not change its policy it should go and give Labour the chance to get people back to work; to help thousands on the housing waiting lists who lived in appalling conditions.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) said it had not been local authorities, but Whitehall which had been overspending in excess of targets.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C) said he found himself a little puzzled why many Conservitave MPs had criticized these proposals, particularly when so many of them voted in support of the Government after the debate on the Autumn Statment.

The proposals announced yesterday were foreshadowed in that statement and formed a central part of the strtegy.

Mr Charles Irving (Cheltenham, C): I do not recall reading anything about this in the Autumn Statement.

Mr Howard said he would support the Government.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that as a result of Mr Jenkin's statement, housing starts next year would be only 36,000 or even less.

How can the Government (he asked) be serious about trying to reduce unemployment when as a result of yesterday's statement many more building workers will join the dole queue in 1985?

Mr Peter Hubbard-Miles (Bridgend, C) said the record of the Labour Party on housing in Wales was dismal. Their protests were hypocritical. There would be no capital receipts if the Labour Party had its way. He supported the *Government.*

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) said they should remember the freedom of local authorities to use the money the Secretary of State had told them was theirs and which was now being cut down to the bone. Millions of pounds that could be pumped into the economy would be held up.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton, North C) said the Conservatives had not been elected to increase massibely the building of council houses but of private houses.

The procedural motion for the adjournment was rejected 325 votes to 225 – Government majority 100.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Sir George Baker's review of Northern Ireland emergency legislation.–Motion on Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 2) Order. **Lords** (11) Motions on Merchant Shipping (Liner Conferences) Orders and other orders.

Peers want to carry on as they are

HOUSE OF LORDS

Was withdrawal of the Conservative whip from Lord Alport for his outspoken criticism of Government *policy,* an indication of a new regime of harsh discipline to be imposed on the Government benches, **Lord Houghton of Sowerby** (Lab) asked in opening a debate in the House of Lords calling attention to the role of the House of Lords.

Until the news, which had come as a shock, he said he had been feeling guilty about introducing a somewhat ponderous subject just before the season of peace and goodwill. But the disciplinary action against Lord Alport had given the subject a new topicality.

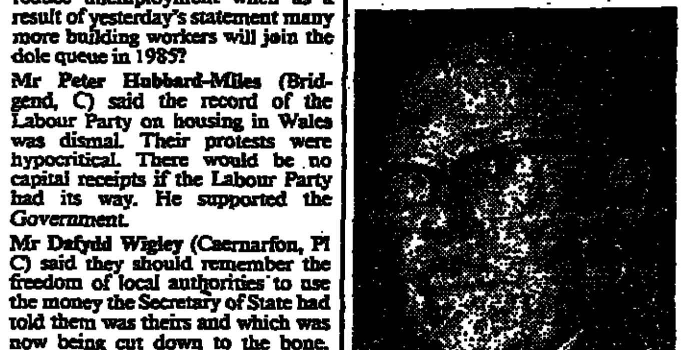
It looked as if the Government Chief Whip, Lord Denham, was giving a short sharp crack of the whip across the Government benches as a warning shot that there must be a greater degree of discipline on the Government side of the House.

That would be contrary to the general direction in which a large section of the House wished to go.

What has happened (he said) may have been the sound and fury behind the genial words of the Leader of the House (Viscount Whitelaw) in November, when he told the House that if we pushed our views too far and too often, we might on occasion be in danger of incurring the displeasure of the elected chamber.

We ought now to consider where we stand in relation to this very rare occurance (he continued) and where we believe our duty lies

For 70 years there had been talk of reforming the House of Lords but for all the talk it had come to nothing. Apart from the creation of *life peers, there had been nothing* done since 1911 which made any substantial difference to the constitutional position of the House.



Houghton: Peers not Mrs Thatcher's poodles

We should stop talking about reform (he said), firmly reject abolition, brush off our detractions and get on with the job. We must work out an up-to-date role for ourselves in dramatically changing conditions. We have had to put up with disparaging and snide remarks, abuse, cruel jokes and threats far too long. We have left the kettle call the *saucepan black in dignified silence.*

Lord Hooson (L) said the House should be reformed and reconstituted but while unreformed should perform its duty as a second chamber and refuse to be used as a mere rubber stamp. The time had come for the House to reconsider its practice in relation to the control and review of statutory instruments.

The Government was radically changing the convention on the type *and quality of power which could be* reserved for secondary legislation. The House must be equally prepared to change radically its convention to meet this new challenge.

Lord Dunleath (Ind) said the lack of democracy *in the House was an* advantage. Coupled with the strength of the back benchers and the Alliance, it meant that the Government was not so easily able to bulldoze as was the case with a three-line whip in the Commons. *This was of tremendous value.*

He supported the status quo of the House as it was with the combination of the vast experience and expertise of the life peers and the stimulus of the young, lively minds of the hereditary peers. This provided a good balance. There was no incentive to speak unless the speaker had something to say.

Lord Shackleton (Lab) said they were all devoted to Viscount Whitelaw, Leader of the House, but he should do something about the extent to which peers were abusing their freedom. The situation was much worse than when there was only a small attendance. The House could only survive if it exercised self-discipline and did not allow questions to go on endlessly, many of them in an improper form.

The Earl of Halsbury (Ind) said discharging the hereditary element in their composition was not the most urgent task which was to reach agreement with the Commons on what each House was there for and how both were to discharge their functions on co-operative elements in a partnership rather than as opponents on a battlefield. Such an agreement would not be reached in a hurry and they should carry on as they were for the time being.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Opposition, said the House of Lords had an essential function to pefformand the experience of the last few years had brought that into focus. The constitution of the country would be much poorer without the House. They had not exceeded their powers.

We should do our utmost (he continued) to make this House an effective working legislature with power to be a check on a Government which is unhappily at this time out of touch with reality and the nation.

Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said he had been unwise to make his remarks about peers not pushing their views too far and too often, but he had hoped they would be picked up by colleagues in the Commons who had been criticising his behaviour.

Perhaps I expressed that in a moment of frustration (he said) and perhaps that was unwise. But in view of what has been done since I became Leader of the House, I do believe this House has a duty to make the Government think again. Since this Government came into power that has been done.

Educating public to buy shares

TRADE

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes, C) suggested during exchanges in the Commons on the sale of British Telecom shares that the Government should run an education programme in conjunction with the Stock Exchange for the nearly two million people who had become shareholders for the first time.

He added that press reports indicated some of the new shareholders did not fully understand the nature of a stock exchange contract.

Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, replied that he was tempted to ask if Mr Hanley – who is a chartered accountant and senior lecturer in law – might have an interest in that sort of education programme.

The sale of shares in this way (he said) and on such a scale is an education programme in itself – not least for the Opposition.

Over two million people purchased BT shares including many first-time investors and 184,000 employees of BT itself. We will continue to encourage wider ownership of shares both by employees and by new investors.

Mr Christopher Hawkins (High Peak, C): The success of the BT issue has given great pleasure to most Conservative MPs. We hope the Government will pursue a policy of extending share ownership *to a still wider section of the British* public.

Mr Fletcher: We shall indeed take his advice, not least through more privatization.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): In addition to the *generous price* at which BT shares were offered to the public, one of the reasons for the great success of the sale of these shares was the change in the marketing and the determined effort that was made publicly to sell them.

In preparing his White Paper on investor protection will Mr Fletcher look at the old legislation and, while ensuring investor protection, relax the rules a little on advertising and prosperous offers to ensure the same effort is made with other share sales.

Mr Fletcher: We are planning to replace the existing Prevention of Fraud (Investmonts) Act. That will be the subject of a White Paper to be published early next year.

Certainly there are lessons to be learnt from the BT privatization. There are many hundreds of thousand of willing investors all over the country. The stockbroking profession has learnt that by advertising their wares on a much bigger scale than usual they can *make sure people who wish to buy* shares, including small investors, are able to do so.

Mr Alan Williams, an Opposition spokesman on trade: Would Mr Fletcher be pleased with and re-employ a broker who sold his shares for half price, or would he be running to a solicitor to take action for incompetence and negligence?

Mr Fletcher: He has the wrong end of the stick. It is quite incorrect to conclude that the offer could have been made at today's price or at any increase in price on that on which the offer was made. The current price reflects a marginal demand – an excess of willing buyers over killing sellers. That will always be the case in issues of this kind.

● Later, Mr Fletcher said his department was investigating care*fully the cases involving multiple* applications for BT shares brought to its attention.

British trade with Libya defended

Labour MPs criticized United Kingdom trade with Libya during Commons questions, but **Mr Paul Channon**, Minister for Trade, said if Britain traded only with those whose regime Britain liked she would be trading with remarkably few.

Mr Channon said UK trade with Libya contributed £50.5m in 1983 and £54.2m in 1984 (January to October) to the UK's visible balance of payments.

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab): The Prime Minister has commented on the NUM trip to Libya, but it is hypocrisy for her to have such money as Mr Channon has mentioned coming into the country from Libya. Is any of the money being laundered into the Tory party?

Mr Channon told him that trading with a country did not imply approval of its regime. Britain traded with many countries whose behaviour it did not like. That was not hypocrisy.

He was astonished that Mr Barron should repudiate his own leader who said of the miners in Libya that any offer to them would be an insult to everything the British Labour movement stood for.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C): The NUM went to a country which does not allow any free trade unions. What trade is likely to come out of the deal between Mr. Scargill and the Libyans regime?

Mr Channon replied amid laughter: None whatsoever.

Mr John Ryman (Blyth Valley, Lab): Despite Mr Channon's nouchalant arrogance, the Government has broken off diplomatic relations with Libya. So it is disgraceful that, by implication, we should be getting the Government's approval of trading with Libya.

The National Coal Board is training Libyan nationals in computer technology which is easily adapted for military purposes. That implies tacit approval of the Libyan regime.

Mr Channon: He is wrong. Whether or not we have diplomatic relations with a country, we try not to impede normal exchanges, including normal civil trade between us. That policy was followed by Labour governments.

Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab) asked if Libyan leaders of industry wishing to trade with Britain had adequate access to the country.

Mr Channon said he had heard no complaints.

UK to press for progress on insurance

Four court cases are pending on the issue of a free market for insurance within the European Community and the Government is intervening in each of them, **Mr Paul Channon**, Minister for Trade, said during Commons questions.

The oral hearings in the first two cases had been set down for next March. Finance ministers discussed the proposed directive on freedom to provide non-life insurance last week. Negotiations were continuing on this directive, and on this and in general the Government would continue to press for rapid progress towards a free EEC market for insurance.

He was replying to **Mr David Heathcoat-Amory** (Wells, C), who had asked: When is the EEC going to give substance to its claim to be a common market? For instance, when is the European Court going to take effective action against those countries which continue to block our insurance industry?

The British people really are getting tired of paying an expensive membership fee for the EEC.

Mr Bryan Gould, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry: The minister has fobbed us off with a meaningless answer. At a time when trade with the EEC on manufacturing is running at an annual deficit of £9,000 million, is it not time he insisted we had proper access for the British insurance industry to the common market and the other providers of financial services?

Has he not allowed the Germans and others who have been obstructive for a long time to get away with it for far too long?

Mr. Channon: I have given the best and most truthful answer I can. It is all very well to say I must insist on certain cases that take place. There is no way of insisting in these cases. Nothing will happen until these court cases are settled.

Bill to set up teachers' pay review body

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, *L*) was given leave to bring in a Bill to set up an independent pay review body to fix the pay and conditions of servise of Scottish teachers.

He argued that their pay had fallen badly behind average earnings and prices while their workload had increased substantially. Such a review would help improve teachers morale which had declined badly in recent years, he added.

The Teachers (Independent Pay Review) (Scotland) Bill was read a first time.

Debate on RAF trainer refused

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected a request by Mr David Ashby (North West Leicestershire, C) for an emergency debate on the Government's decision not to buy a British-made replacement to the RAF's basic trainer.

Mr Ashby complained in the Commons that the announcement, made in a Commons written announcement, meant the contract was now likely to go to Brazil or Switzerland. This would be a great disappointment to those working on the Hunter Firecracker, the British contender for the contract.

Caribbean bound: Sir John Mills and Lady Mills (playwright Mary Hayley Bell), at Heathrow airport yesterday on their way to spend Christmas in Antigua.

Snaps trap molester

Holiday snaps taken by a German tourist in London helped trap a child molester and bring a three-year reign of terror to an end, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The tourist, a doctor, had suspicions about a man who approached his two young daughters in Hyde Park and spoke to them. He took several photographs and later sent them to Scotland Yard with a "warning" letter.

A policeman recognized Stephen Phillips, aged 23, a former hotel porter in the photographs and when arrested Phillips confessed, Mr Geoffrey Mercer, for the prosecution, said.

Phillips, of West End Lane, Kilburn, was jailed for seven years after admitting a number of indecent assaults on boys and girls aged between seven and 12.

Press Council rebuke for The Times

Although it maintained that a diary story about Larry Adler, the mouth organist, was accurate, *The Times* should have been prepared to publish a short letter setting the record straight from his point of view, the Press Council said today.

The council partly upheld a complaint by Mr Adler that having published a diary item containing factual inaccuracies the editor declined to correct them.

The item recalled that Mr Adler was driven out of the United States in 1949 after being blacklisted as a communist subversive. It added that the Americans, who attempted to strip him of his citizenship in 1956, refused to grant him concert fixtures when he returned because, according to an inpresario: "Republican ladies have long memories."

On the day the item appeared, Mr Adler wrote to the writer that it was a nice piece but he had a few niggles. He said his fellow Americans had not tried to take away his citizenship, which was almost impossible to do. The State Department wanted him to turn in his passport, so that he would be unable to travel outside the United States.

The decision to live in the United Kingdom was entirely his, he said. He said nobody called him, in print or officially, either communist or subversive. He wrote again on similar lines next day.

Almost two months later Mr Adler's solicitors, B. M. Birnberg & Co., of Borough High Street, London Bridge, wrote to the editor asking for a correction.

Mr Antony Whitaker, legal manager, said that the author, Miss Angela Gordon, had gone to the trouble before publication of clearing the salient points of what she was going to say about him.

Mr Whitaker said it was Mr Adler himself who told Miss Gordon that he had been "blacklisted as a Communist subversive." He quoted from an interview given by Mr Adler to Mr Tim Devlin, in *The Times* of June 2, 1973, in which Mr Devlin wrote that one of Mr Adler's worst periods of depression was in 1949 when he was hounded out of Hollywood for unAmerican activities.

He also noted that in his own "One Man's Week" column in the *Sunday Times* in 1973, Mr Adler wrote that a recital was "our first New York concert since 1948, when our left-wing activities blacked us right out of showbiz".

Mr Whitaker said he was quite satisfied that the newspaper had not defamed Mr Adler and did not consider any corrections called for.

Mr Birnberg said that Mr Adler strongly denied that he told Miss Gordon he had been blacklisted as a Communist subversive or that he had used the words "driven out".

Mr Colin Webb, deputy editor, told the council he did not think the "niggles" mentioned in Mr Adler's first letter warranted correction, especially as Mr Adler was the source of the information.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

What was apparently intended as a friendly paragraph in *The Times* Diary, about the mouth organist Larry Adler, included four points which he said were inaccurate.

Mr Adler said he was not driven out of the United States as *The Times* recalled, but left voluntarily, choosing to stay in Britain; although *he was blacklisted he* was not described as a communist subversive; and the Americans did not attempt to strip him of his citizenship but ordered him to surrender his passport when he was confused with another man with a similar name. He contested a reference in the Diary to a refusal to grant him concert fixtures when he returned to the United States.

The Press Council does not doubt that the items were published in good faith. *The Times* has maintained their accuracy, relying *on its interpretation of them,* its writer's account of her conversation with Mr Adler, and earlier published references to his career.

Nevertheless, it should have been prepared to publish a short letter setting the record straight from Mr Adler's point of view. To this extent the complaint against *The Times* is upheld.

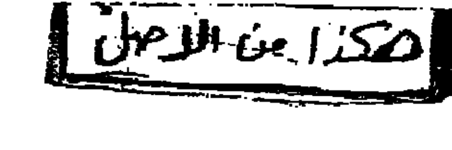
Child drugs 'Inadequate'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government's proposed limited list of National Health Service drugs is "seriously inadequate" for children's needs, the British Paediatric Association said yesterday. "The list seems to have been drawn up without taking their needs into account" Dr Tim Chambers, the Association's secretary, said.

The only oral laxative on the provisional list was methylcellulose granules which had to be chewed and swallowed to provide bulk. "There might be a risk that the granules would be inhaled by a very small child protesting about his medicine".

Another drug, Paracetamol elixir, was bitter and unpleasant



US presents united Nato to counter Kremlin Star Wars propaganda

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is confident that the Soviet Union will not be able to drive a propaganda wedge between Washington and its European Nato allies on President Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" defence initiative.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will brief Mr Reagan at Saturday's Camp David meeting on her talks in Britain with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov on the prospects for arms control, including space weapons.

Washington is determined not to appear at odds with Britain or other Nato allies on the Star Wars programme. The Administration has repeatedly pointed out that the President's strategic defence initiative – the so-called Star Wars programme – is only a research project.

The United States is willing to discuss what the Soviet Union describes as the demilitarization of space in the Geneva talks next month between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. The talks will also cover intermediate-range and strategic nuclear missiles.

Mrs Thatcher, with other Nato leaders, has expressed general concern about preventing any militarization of space, a view shared by the Administration. A senior Reagan official told *The Times* that Washington was confident of allied support for the research programme.

The Administration maintains that the strategic defence initiative will not, contrary to Moscow's claim, violate the 1972 Soviet-US anti-ballistic missile treaty. Washington, however, is not willing to accept Moscow's call for a moratorium at the outset of the Geneva talks on the testing of anit-satellite weapons, although *it* is ready to discuss the issue in the negotiations proper.

Administration officials claim that Moscow's tactics are to divide the European allies from the US on the Star Wars issue and prevent further American testing of anti-satellite weapons early next year – weapons in which Moscow has a lead already.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, said this week that in his talks with Mrs Thatcher in London recently, she shared the feeling "that we don't want another arms race or a continuation of the arms race".

Congress has already voted money for the strategic defence initiative research programme and the Pentagon this week named 10 industry teams to make the first studies of concepts for the Administration's $30 billion (£25 billion) Star Wars space-based missile defence system.

Each was awarded a million dollar contract to evaluate the performance and costs of existing and future technologies, such as lasers, to be used in the programme. The strategic defence initiative would be signed to protect US and Nato allies from Soviet missiles. The teams were asked to submit their results in about five months, when other contractors will be selected to do more detailed research.



Pointing the way: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, at a Pentagon press conference after winning an internal Cabinet battle over military spending

CBS man defends Vietnam programme

New York (NYT) – Mr George Crile, producer of a disputed CBS documentary on the Vietnam war, has described the calculation of enemy strength by General William C. Westmoreland's command in 1967 as "akin to an intelligence atrocity".

Mr Crile, testifying for the seventh day on Tuesday at General Westmoreland's $120 million (about £100 million) libel suit against the network in the Federal Court in Manhattan, said the General's command had engaged in a "shell game" in its estimates of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troop strength in the months preceding the communists' Tet offensive of January 1968.

He said the command's low figures for the enemy misled American leaders and deprived them of the ability to reassess policies at a "critical juncture" of the war.

His eyes fixed on the jury, hands cupped and flapping in supporting gestures, the producer, aged 39, spent the afternoon being cross-examined by Mr David Boies, the lawyer for CBS. Mr Crile had been called as a "hostile witness" by Mr Dan M. Burt, General Westmoreland's lawyer.

Using an August 1967 cable from General Westmoreland's headquarters to high-ranking military and civilian officials, Mr Burt attempted to show that Washington had not been kept in the dark about Saigon's decision to delete the Vietcong's self-defence forces from the official listing of enemy strength.

Mr Crile conceded that the cable had been widely distributed, even perhaps to the White House, but insisted that it incorporated "fake and dishonest intelligence".

Under cross-examination Mr Crile was adamant that military leaders had provided a "distorted picture" of a "degraded" enemy who soon showed his real capabilities during the Tet offensive.

The offensive might not have been a military victory for the North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces, Mr Crile said, but it dealt a "devastating psychological" blow to the "aura of optimism" fostered by the Administration of President Johnson.

Mr Burt had accused Mr Crile of fabricating parts of that programme, *The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception*, and on Tuesday Mr Boies asked Mr Crile: "Did you make up anything in connection with the broadcast?" Mr Crile replied: "Absolutely not."

General Westmoreland, now 70 years old and retired, commanded US forces in Vietnam from January 1964 to June 1968.

He contends that CBS defamed him by saying he had deceived President Johnson and the Joint Chiefs of Staff about the true size and nature of the ememy in late 1967.

The hearing went into a two-week holiday recess after a juror became ill.

Three months at the UN

More power to the West

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 39th session of the United Nations General Assembly which rose on Tuesday is being seen as marking the return of Western influence to a body previously ruled by radical interests. Diplomats are hailing it as the most moderate session in recent memory where many hardline arguments once taken as gospel have been rejected as esoteric and outdated.

This new moderation has permeated most of the 141 items debated over the three-month period and bears the mark of a determination by the United States to respond aggressively to anti-Western deeds and rhetoric in the organization.

It also coincides with the crisis of the world's crippling economy and a Third World awareness that it must look to the West for answers, not through confrontation but accommodation.

The decision by the Reagan Administration in 1983 to reduce aid to Zimbabwe partly because of its UN voting pattern has cast a long shadow over the assembly.

One highlight is the consensus declaration on the economic crisis in Africa which blended Western interests with African needs to produce a practical blueprint for change. Missing are the anti-West slogans, and, much to the dismay of the Soviet Union, charges from the Africans that their problems are the legacy of colonialism.

Ironically, at a time when the Reagan Administration is under domestic pressure to remove its investment from South Africa, the Assembly voted to remove references to American collusion with Pretoria in its anti-apartheid resolutions.

The shifting fortunes of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the disappearance of even a semblance of Arab unity strengthened Israel's diplomatic position and brought it out of an international isolation imposed for more than a decade.

Radical Arab states lost ground on many of the key Middle East resolutions. In the Middle East debates the international community began moving away from viewing the antagonists of the region exclusively through an anti-Israel glass.

And in the decolonization committee, the US removed references to Israel on resolutions broadly dealing with colonial situations and the Israelis defeated a credentials challenge by Iran.

At the start of the Assembly in September, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, met his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and set the groundwork for what most diplomats believe will be the start of an American-Soviet rapprochement in the New Year.

Mr Gromyko's proposals on a ban on space weapons and state terrorism fared poorly, however. The former was withdrawn for lack of support and the latter was amended.

The Soviet Union suffered its greatest defeat in the Assembly when 119 countries condemned its invasion of Afghanistan, demonstrating that censure of the occupation would not fade with time.

The Association of South East Asian countries increased its majority on a resolution condemning Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Iran's tendency to play the iconoclast of the international community worked against it on an anti-Iraqi chemical weapons resolution which in normal circumstances would have been easily adopted.

A scarcely noticed resolution setting up a convention against torture was perhaps the assembly's most significant achievement. Unlike most resolutions which are simply normally binding. The treaty, when ratified, will become part of a state's legal code.

Madagascar elected to Security Council

In one of its final acts of the session, the Assembly elected Madagascar to fill the African seat on the Security Council for two years from January. After a long battle, Madagascar received 126 votes. Ethiopia and Somalia had earlier campaigned for the seat, but withdrew when it became clear neither could win a majority.

40 arrests in Austrian dam protest

Vienna (Reuter) – Six policemen and 11 protesters were hurt yesterday when Austrian police cleared people blocking work on a dam that environmentalists say will destroy one of the last primeval forests in Europe.

Eight hundred policemen were ordered into the forest of Hainburg, on the Danube between Vienna and the Czechoslovak border, to move 1,500 environmentalists camping in freezing weather. Forty people were arrested.

Protesters say the hydroelectric project will destroy the forest, because the dam will greatly reduce flooding needed for the ecological system to survive.

Hundreds of protesters had flocked to the site to obstruct tree felling and demand the halting of construction pending a referendum.

Yesterday's injuries and arrests happened after protesters attempted to break through a police cordon.

Herr Günther Nenning, a journalist and opponent of the dam, accused the police of brutality against people indulging in passive resistance. "I saw women and children being beaten."

Police denied the charges. They said they had used force only in self-defence.

● LINZ: An oil slick, believed to be from a barge, was moving along the Danube yesterday between Vienna and Linz.

Professor claims Bach music find

From Christopher Thomas Washington

A Harvard professor of music says he has discovered 33 previously unknown compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach, composed between 1700 and about 1708 when Bach was in his late teens and early twenties.

Professor Christoph Wolff, chairman of Harvard's music department, said he found the works, which are all for organ, in the Yale University library. "The rather embarrassing and amusing thing is that it took someone from Harvard to show Yale what they have."

A bound manuscript containing the works has been the property of Yale since 1873. It has been kept in Yale's Beinecke rare book and manuscript library recently. The manuscript includes 83 works by various composers, including several other members of the Bach family Mr Wolff said.

Previously, it was known only that the manuscript contained organ music of the late 17th and 18th centuries.

Professor Wolff has been researching in the Yale library for several years.

He insisted that there could be no doubt about the authenticity of the works by J. S. Bach. He has played the newly discovered works on an organ. "The overall quality is remarkable."

Spanish hopes rise for EEC deal next month

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is hopeful that negotiations for his country to join the EEC can be successfully concluded next month.

His optimism came yesterday in Brussels after he reached agreement on three more areas needing to be settled. The most important of those to Britain covered the way to phase out Spain's high industrial tariffs on goods such as domestic appliances and cars.

At the moment British cars are virtually excluded from the Spanish market because a tax of more than 36 per cent is levied on them. Other items, such as refrigerators, have tax levels of more than 20 per cent.

Under the new agreement Spain will eliminate its import taxes progressively over seven years. In the first three years they will come down by just over half.

At the same time Spain is to allow in a quota of 32,000 cars in the year it joins at a rate of no more than 17.4 per cent. This quota will rise to 36,000 to the next year and to 40,000 in the third year, by which time the lower tariff levels will be in force.

Britain and Italy have been told they will have 2,000 cars of the quota each reserved exclusively for them while the rest will be available to whoever can sell cars fastest.

The second agreement covered steel production. For the first three years after joining the Community Spain will be allowed to sell no more than 827,500 tonnes a year to other member states, unless there is a surge in demand. That is slightly above its present export level to the EEC.

The third area agreed was on Spanish representation in the Community institutions. It is to have 60 Euro-MPs.

The most difficult negotiations, covering agriculture and fishing, are ahead.

Weinberger deplores paper's disclosure of shuttle spy mission

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday accused *The Washington Post* of "the height of journalistic irresponsibility" in revealing that the next space shuttle will carry a military spy satellite to be positioned over the Soviet Union.

It was well known that the shuttle, due for launch on January 23, would carry a secret payload. The Pentagon had reached agreement with news agencies, the television networks and the press to keep the details confidential.

Mr Ben Bradley, Editor-in-Chief of *The Washington Post*, said that he knew of no requests to the newspaper to keep the cargo of the shuttle a secret. Certainly, no request had been received by him. There was little difference between the paper's story and a report that had been broadcast by the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Mr Weinberger said the story could affect national security. Mr Bradley insisted: "That argument makes no sense at all."

The secrecy agreement was announced on Tuesday by Brigadier Richard Abel, Chief of Public Affairs for the Air Force. "We intend to protect the identity, mission and all operational details of Department of Defence payloads", he said.

Over the next three years almost all US military space missions will be by space shuttle. Air Force officials said eight to ten military shuttle missions would be launched each year once the programme was fully under way.

The New York Times, which clearly knew the nature of the next shuttle mission, did not reveal details in yesterday's issue. A front page story began, somewhat tongue-in-cheek: "Defence Department officials, elaborating on a newly announced policy of secrecy surrounding the space shuttle when it carries military cargo, acknowledged today that little information would be kept from the Russians but said even that was worth the try."

The Washington Post said the new military intelligence satellite would collect electronic signals and transmit them to a US receiving station on Earth. The satellite would be positioned over the western portion of the Soviet Union.

It stated: "The $300 million (£250 million) satellite would be the most important and largest of the so-called signals intelligence, or Sigint, satellites, four or five of which already hover above the Soviet Union." The paper qouted "informed sources".

●Moscow Tass yesterday described the shuttle security measures as "an impenetrable veil of sucurity" designed to hide a military takeover of the entire programme (NYT reports)

The report in little more than 300 words, disclosed more in formation about the military aspects of the American space programme than the Soviet press has ever disclosed about its own Government's military uses of space.

Although Western analysts say the Soviet space programme is largely controlled by the military, the Soviet Union has never acknowledged any military aspect to any of its space flights.

Tass said spokesman from the Pentagon and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration "flatly refused" to disclose the shuttle's flight plan or the duration of its mission.

Svetlana to make home in Georgia

From Richard Owen
Tbilisi

Stalin's daughter Svetlana Alliluyeva, who has not been seen in Moscow for a month, is planning to live in the dictator's native republic of Georgia with her American-born daughter, Olga, informed sources here say.

There are also reports that Volgograd may revert to the name Stalingrad as part of a growing campaign to rehabilitate Stalin's memory.

Georgian officials, including Nina Ameridzhibe, chief curator of the Stalin Museum at Gori, Stalin's Georgian birthplace, confirmed that Svetlana had flown from Moscow to Tbilisi last Sunday. She was taken to an official guest house in the Georgian capital.

Local officials said she had come to her father's homeland to "look around" and to inspect the school which Olga will attend in Ibilisi. Olga, aged 13, is Svetlana's child by her short marriage to an American architect, and speaks neither Russian nor Georgian.

Few of Stalin's relatives are still in Georgia, except for Vissarion, the grandson of Stalin's son, Yakov, who died in a German prisoner of war camp in 1943 after Stalin had refused to exchange him for General von Paulus, the defeated German commander at Stalingrad. Vissarion studies at the Tbilisi Agricultrural Academy, but is serving in the army.

Svetlana caused a sensation by returning to the Soviet Union from Engalnd at the end of October after 17 years in the West, mostly in the United States. At a press conference on November 16 she claimed she had never felt free in the West for a single day.

Her return has coincided with a growing reassessment of Stalin in the period leading up to next May's celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the "Victory over Fascism". The Stalin musem at Gori expects a large number of visitors tomorrow, the 105th anniversary of Stalin's birth. Miss Ameridzhibe said she hoped Svetlana would attend the celebrations honouring her father. "I hope she will be here, I expect it", she said.

One million people have visited the Stalin museum so far this year, breaking all previous records

Mr Timur Stepanov, head of the Georgian news agency Gruzinform, said Stalin's memory was cherished in Gori, and the Soviet war generation still recalled those who had died with Stalin's name on their lips in the fight against Hitler. But Georgians were less enthusiastic about Svetlana, who sought asylum in the West in 1967. "The prodigal daughter has not been forgiven," he said.

South African police seize ITN film

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African security police yesterday raided the offices here of Independent Television News (ITN) and seized nearly three dozen video casettes containing film shot in South Africa and other countries over a period of more than two years. The raid appears to be unprecedented.

Four policemen in plain clothes turned up at the office in a northern Johannesburg suburb with a search warrant signed by the local magistrate which said the casettes could "afford evidence of the commission, or suspected commission, of an offence".

ITN's chief correspondent here, Mr Peter Sharp, is on holiday, and when the police arrived there was only a secretary in the office. She alerted Mr Keith Shaw, a freelance producer, who also works for ITN.

In a bizarre scene, ITN then filmed the police search of its own office. The police eventually took away 33 casettes, for which Mr Shaw signed an inventory. The police told him the material would be returned tomorrow, presumably after it has been copied.

Most of the seized film concerns recent unrest in African townships, last August's elections to the new Indian and coloured [mixed race] chambers of Parliament and meetings of the United Democratic Front, a multiracial alliance of extra-parliamentary opposition groups.

Eight leading members of the UDF, five of whom took refuge in the British Consulate in Durban, were charged recently with treason, an offence which is very broadly defined in South African law. It seems possible that the ITN film could be used to help to build up a case against them.

One of the films taken, however, was shot in December 1982 in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, at a funeral of members of the underground African National Congress killed in a raid on the town by South African commandos.

The search of the ITN office seems to fit in to a pattern of increasing police harassment of foreign television crews. ARD of West Germany and Viznews had video footage confiscated last September after filming a funeral in Soweto,

The film has not been returned, and the West German Embassy in Pretoria was informed earlier this week by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs that it would be used as evidence

A number of local journalists have been subpoenaed recently under section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act to give information about their contacts with black political activists.

In a statement yesterday, the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southern Africa said: "Regardless of the legality of the police action, the raid breaks widly established conventions respecting material gathering by reporters in the normal course of their duties. Coercion of reporters and their material into the service of police investigations makes it more difficult for impartial journalists to work in South Africa, and diminishes press freedom."

EEC fish ministers in cold water

From Ian Murray
Brussels

Unusually cold waters off Greenland posed a problem to EEC fisheries ministers when they met here yesterday to negotiate catch levels for next year.

Scientific advice showed that the cold had driven away large numbers of cod from the traditionally rich fishing banks,

At the same time, the experts had discovered that North Sea herring had continued to increase, thanks to the tighter controls imposed under the policy. This allowed the European Commission to propose an increase in the herring catch there from the 155,000 tonnes allowed last year to 298,000 tonnes next year.

The main problem was posed by Greenland, which is meant to leave the Community at the turn of the year. Under the agreement covering its departure, it is allowed to fish more than scientific advice says is desirable. That means there would be nothing left for EEC countries,

Moscow chess draw again after 20 moves

Moscow (AP) – World chess champion Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov played to a draw by repetition yesterday in the 34th game of their world title contest and tied the record for most games played in a chess championship.

White, Kasparov; Black, Karpov

1	P-Q4	Kt-KB3	2	P-QB4	P-K3
3	Kt-KB3	P-Q4	4	Kt-B3	B-K2
5	B-Kt5	P-KR3	6	B-R4	O-O
7	P-K3	P-QKt3	8	B-K2	B-Kt2
9	R-QB1	PxP	10	BxP	QKt-Q2
11	O-O	P-QR3	12	P-R4	P-QB4
13	Q-K2	PxP	14	PxP	Kt-KR3
15	BxB	QxB	16	P-Q5	Kt-KB5
17	Q-K3	Q-B3	18	Kt-K4	Q-B4
19	Kt-KKt3	Q-B3	20	Kt-K4	Q-B4

Draw agreed

Zia poll optimism challenged

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad

President Zia of Pakistan is confident of a "positive responce" in the referendum he is using to seek a mandate for another five years in office. He was speaking yesterday after casting his vote.

He claimed a huge turn-out in the country's sparsely-populated northern areas, despite chilly weather, but unofficial reports from the rest of the country said the turn-out was low.

Opponents of the Government, including the 11-party Movement for the restoration of Democracy, boycotted the referendum, describing it as fraud.

General Zia's next term is likely to begin when the new parliament meets, possibly in the middle of next year, General Zia has been at the helm since 1977 when he overthrew the Bhutto government after a controversial general election.

Official television and radio yesterday claimed a high turn-out and reported demonstrations by pro-Zia electors. Interviews showed voters affirming their loyalty to the military ruler.

However, according to a Lahore report, police clashed with protesters near a central mosque when they raised anti-referendum and anti-Zia slogans.

General Zia brushed aside the suggestion that he might be considered another Third World military dictator. "I never worry who thinks what about me. I am very sincere and honest", he told the press.

He could not say whether he would give up his posts of army chief and Chief Martial Law Administrator if he got an unambiguous mandate in the referendum. The armed forces were his constituency and source of strength. He would think about the matter



TO THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT!

MORE TORY REVOLTS

$73m for centre in Addis

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

On the day that the United Nations was discussing ways of filling the wide gap between contributions to alleviate the famine in Ethiopia and the country's soaring needs, the General Assembly voted to spend $73.5 million (£62.3 million) to improve a conference centre in Addis Ababa.

One hundred and twenty-one countries voted in favour of the resolution to improve the facilities of the Centre for the Economic Commission for Africa, a regional economic advisory body, while Britain, the United States and the Benelux countries voted against the project. Sixteen other countries, which regarded the allocation of resources as wasteful, abstained for fear of offending African countries.

Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, joined the countries opposed to the plan in an effort to point out to the Africans the incongruity of spending lavish sums on the project while much of Africa is in the throes of severe economic hardship.

Mr Richard Nygard, the American delegate, told the Assembly that the $73.5 million for the new conference building was not just one more budget addition but represented a "perversion" of the ideals enunciated in the UN Charter. "It was a cruel rebuff to the poor, the hungry and the downtrodden who have invested their hopes and dreams in the promise of international co-operation."

He asked how member states could take the UN seriously when an Assembly session, focusing on the economic crisis in Africa, made its largest commitment of financial resources for a conference centre. Some critics of the project privately said that it was a symbol of the economic excesses of African governments where money that should be spend on basic necessities was allocated for showpiece projects.

Famine area visits are defended

Addis Ababa (AP) – Dick Gregory , the American comedian who is on a fast in solidarity with Ethiopian famine victims, yesterday defended the influx of celebrity visitors to the drought-stricken country. "I don't think enough could come", he told the Associated Press on the second day of his fast.

"I think the world has put an aura around celebrities, and celebrities can bring certain issues to people's attention. When the issues deal with humanitarian causes, people really respond".

As he spoke, Senator Edward Kennedy, and his two children, were preparing to leave Addis Ababa on a four-day tour of emergency feeding centres. Other celebrities who have come to Ethiopia include the American actors Charlton Heston and Cliff Robertson.

Sorrow in a Sudanese camp

Left with no time to cry

From Robert Fisk
Toklabab Camp
Kassala, Sudan

The Little Tigrean Girl sat quite still in Stéphane Michon's arms, without the strength to wipe the flies from her eyes and mouth. She was four but she was so small, the skin hung from her tiny, bony arms and legs. There were sores all over her head and she paid no heed to Stéphane's words. Anyway, she had no name.

"I have to talk to someone else", Stéphane said, and the woman opposite began to beg for advice. Her baby was hungry, she explained. She had no food for it. Stéphane produced a thin packet of Oxfam biscuits – there were two wafers inside – and opened the Cellophane cover. "Tell her that the biscuits are only for her baby", she told her interpreter, "not for her husband and her brothers". The woman vainly tried to push a piece of biscuit into her baby's mouth. The little girl in Stéphane's arms seemed to be watching , but with such tiredness.

There were other women in Stéphane's queue all day, women with babies that needed injections, old women who might have been faking sickness, a mother who pushed seven pills into her baby's mouth and made it vomit until Stéphane explained that the pills had to be administered one by one. But the little girl with flies on her eyes seemed somehow special.

"She eats a lot but does not grow so we think she must have tuberculosis", Stéphane said, and held the little girl's head to her shoulder. "She's an orphan and we have found no one to look after her. Each night, when we leave, we find someone and give her to them. But they do nothing. This morning, we found her just sitting in the desert on her own."

The little girl moved her left hand slightly, as if exercising her fingers. A simple plastic tag on her spindly wrist named her "Number 508". She was, after all, only one of 35,000 famine victims who have dragged themselves over the Ethiopian border into Sudan.

Stéphane Michon, one of that small but brave group of doctors and nurses from the French *Médecins Sans Frontières* organisation who go to Afghanistan or Uganda or the Ogaden with less ceremony but often more courage than the big refugee organisations that trumpet their goodwill. Stéphane has been to Uganda and Somalia – which she found worse than Toklabab – and to Rwanda and Thailand

But in Sudan, her supplies are so low that she is giving pills rather than medicine to the sick. The last 25 boxes of biscuits were due to run out in four days – some refugees had been trying to steal them – and while she had plenty of milk, it was always mixed with oil to provide more energy. Milk with oil needs sugar – and the sugar was almost finished.

Other, less mundane, medical deficiencies were affecting the little girl in Stéphane's arms, however. For although she had TB, *Médecins Sans Frontières* cannot administer treatment. This requires a settled home and location which, of course, the little girl numbered 508 did not have.

Stéphane wanted to send her to a settlement at Fao where she could receive attention. But in the meantime, who among the hungry, broken people at Toklabab would want to look after an orphan with TB?

What would happen to the little girl in Stéphane's arms? She hugged the child again and said, half-smiling: "She will die, I think. I have her with me as much as possible to make these days happy for her."

The little girl stretched out her arm slowly, towards my pen. Stéphane took the pen and held my notebook in front of the child. "Hallo", she wrote on it and showed it to the little girl who looked at the meaningless foreign greeting. Then the girl took the pen and with great concentration through her fly-covered eyes, she drew two lines on the notepad and held the pen out for me.

The little girl had been brought to the Sudan by an unknown boy. If she must leave it so sadly, she would at least do so with Stéphane as her friend.

"I've had three of these children die here", she said. "But I have to accept it. The people here do. They cry for five minutes and then say *'Malesh'* and that Allah wanted it.

But how would Stéphane feel if the little girl died? She looked at the child with its covering of flies. Then she waved her right arm through the air. "I shall say 'next one'," she replied. "They come to me too late sometimes. We have no time to cry. There will be other children in the queue. So I shall say 'next one!'."



Warming smile: A victim of famine being examined by a French doctor on the border between Tigré province and the Sudan. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Millions receive emergency aid

Rome, (AFP) – Emergency food aid worth more than $20m (about £17m) will be provided to help three million victims of war or natural disaster in seven countries, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said here yesterday.

The recipient countries are Burundi, Morocco, Chad, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Honduras and El Salvador.

The World Food Programme will provide Morocco with 10,000 tonnes of cereals which will enable it to feed for 36 days about 694,500 people affected by drought.

The year that Africa claimed the lives of five million children

By Our Foreign Staff

Nearly five million African children have died during 1984 and another five million have been disabled by malnutrition and disease, according to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund published yesterday (Wed).

But Mr James Grant, Executive Director of Unicef, says that low cost treatments now available could save the lives of perhaps half of those who die each year in the world's poorest continent.

The most dramatic of the methods is oral rehydration therapy (ORT), which is estimated to have saved the lives of half a million children in the Third World during the past 12 months.

"Previously, dehydration could only be treated intravenously by medical personnel in clinics. Now, it can be prevented orally by parents in the child's own home – using the mass-produced 10-cent sachets of prepacked salts or the even cheaper home-made solutions of sugar, salt and water."

The report argues that oral rehydration treatment could save most of the more than four million children now thought to die from diarrhoeal dehydration. National ORT campaigns have been launched in over 20 countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Tanzania, Egypt, Haiti and Brazil. Such dehydration kills almost 10 per cent of all children in Bangladesh.

If all the possible resources were mobilized, ORT could be made available to half the families in the world within the next five years. Cheap immunization programmes could also save many lives among the estimated five million children who die from measles and other diseases, leaving a similar number disabled. Several state governments in India now aim to immunize all children.

But the report notes that very children in the Third World die from malnutrition, measles or any other disease alone. "Most of the 40,000 young children who are dying each day are dying not because they lost a battle but because they lost a war – a long losing war against the sheer frequency of the assaults on their growth during their most vulnerable years."

The State of the World's Children 1985, Oxford University Press, 116 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BZ. £3.50 (paperback), or £9.95 (hardback).

Guinea reshuffle in drive on state corruption

From Susan MacDonald
Dakar

President Lansana Conté of Guinea said yesterday that state corruption had forced him to take over the job of Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, in addition to being head of state. He also announced a reshuffle in which nine people left the Government and five joined.

The former Prime Minister, Colonel Diara Traore, remains in the Cabinet as Minister of Education. It was he and not President Conté who had appeared the more public figure after the military coup in Guinea last April which followed the death of President Sekou Touré.

President Conté gave a warning that the changes were only a beginning and other public figures would be eliminated if they did not put the interests of the state first.

Peru and Malta criticized by jurists

Geneva (AP) – The human rights situation in Peru has become "extremely serious" and is deteriorating in Malta according to a survey by the International Commission of Jurists.

In Peru "the escalation of violence, the militarization of society ... combines with violations of human rights represent a serious and specific threat to democracy," the commission's quarterly review says.

It also criticizes "the tacit tolerance if not provocation of mob violence against the courts, the church and the press," in Malta.

Operation Faith nearly finished

Delhi – stock of poisonous gas at the Union Carbide plant at Bhopal has turned out to be larger than experts had estimated. One more tonne was neutralized yesterday in what is known as "Operation Faith", and the process is expected to be completed today (Kuldip Nayar writes).

Thousands of people who fled from Bhopal five days ago before the neutralization began, are returning in an endless stream of buses, lorries and carts. An atmosphere of relief has replaced the panic prevalent a few days ago.

Hostages 'alive in Zimbabwe'

Harare – A ransom note claims that six foreign tourists kidnapped by Zimbabwe guerrillas in July 1982 are still alive and will be released if a list of demands is met (Jan Raath writes).

The six are Mr James Greenwell, aged 21 from Liverpool, and Mr Martin Hodgson, aged 33, from Peterborough; two Australians, Mr Tony Bazjelz aged 27, and Mr William Butler, aged 33; and two Americans, Mr Brett Baldwin, aged 25, and Mr Kevin Ellis, aged 26.

Lebanon duels

Beirut (AP) – Artillery and rocket exchanges between Christian and Druze militiamen and the Lebanese Army broke out again in the central mountains as efforts continued to salage a government plan to reopen the coastal highway to the Israeli-occupied south.

Air strike

Wellington (Reuter) – Christmas air traffic to and from New Zealand was threatened by a strike of Air New Zealand's international flight cabin crews over the introduction of computerized rostering. The cancellation of flights to Brisbane, Los Angeles and London stranded 1,200 passengers.

Arson arrests

Noumea (AFP) – French authorities in New Caledonia are holding six Melanesian suspects after one person died and six were hurt in a store blaze on Sunday. The arrests followed the departure of the French special envoy, M Edgard Pisani, by special plane for Paris, where he will report to President Mitterrand.

Chile blasts

Santiago (Reuter) – Bomb attacks in Santiago and the southern Chilean city of Rancagua injured 18 people. The Government said a left-wing group, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, had telephoned a warning before the Rancagua blast.

Guerrilla bomb

Oberammergau (Reuter) – Guerrillas of the left-wing Red Army Faction planted a bomb which was defused outside a Nato school here yesterday, police said. It was apparently linked with a prison hunger strike by about 35 convicted or suspected members.

Big chill

Moscow (Reuter) – Soviet Central Asia (which is accustomed to desert heat, is reporting the coldest winter on record. Temperatures in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, have plunged to –35C (–31F). The north-eastern Siberian cities of Verkhoyansk and Oymyakon have recorded –56C (–60F) already.

Deep sleep

Frankfurt (AP) – When a motorist was found asleep at the wheel of his car in a Frankfurt underground railway tunnel, he told police he had nodded off while driving to work after a night of pre-holiday drinking. Trains were diverted for two hours during the morning rush hour

Soap opera

Tokyo (AP) - Tokyo massage parlours, generally known as *Toruko* or Turkish baths, are to change their name after complaints from Turkish residents. There was even one which called itself the Turkish Embassy, until the real embassy complained that it was receiving telephone calls intended for the massage parlour. From January 1, they will be known as "soaplands" a name chosen in a public competition.

Rejection of Fabius TV debate offer highlights French divide

From Diana Geddes
Paris

The seemingly unbridgeable gulf separating the Right from the Left in French politics has again been highlighted by the refusal of M Raymond Barre, and M Jacques Chirac, two of the main opposition leaders, to accept the unusual invitation by M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, to a face-to-face debate on television. Such challenges normally come from the Opposition to the Government rather than vice versa.



M Chirac: Off guard. M Barre: Lame reply.

M Barre and M Chirac were clearly taken off guard by the offer, and took more than 24 hours to concoct their less than convincing reply. After mutual consultation, both said while they would be prepared to engage in such a debate at the time of the parliamentary elections in 1986, now was not the time.

"In the present circumstances. France has no need of spectacles, whether televized or not, but of a coherent, firm and continuous government action," M Barre said, adding: "I do not see the real interest in a debate such as that proposed by M Fabius, save to distract people's attention from the real problems confronting the country and from the Government's impotence."

In M Chirac's view, there was no sense in engaging in a debate with any of the Socialist Party leaders at the present time because it would "simply provide the party with another opportunity to abuse the right to speak on the national television channels, which the Opposition had been refused".

M Chirac was referring to an incident last October when M Fabius was offered a monthly quarter-of-an-hour slot on television to explain the Government's policies. An indignant Opposition immediately demanded, and was granted, a quarter-of-an-hour "right of reply", but in the end turned it down, denouncing the Government's political exploitation of the news media.

Soon after being appointed Prime Minister last July, M Fabius announced that it would be his aim to seek a political *"decrispation"* and *"Rassemblement"*. To that end, he invited two opposition MPs to help him with a government inquiry into two areas where he believed political consensus was both possible and desirable – *law and order*, and the needs of the elderly.

The offer was rejected out of hand, however, and all M Fabius's other apparently friendly overtures have been met with a similar rebuff. "In a democracy", M Chirac explained, "the government's role is to assume its responsibilities; it is not the opposition's role to facilitate its task".

In France, where the political complexion of governments change relatively rarely, there is not the same tradition of political give and take as is in Britain. While sessions in the National Assembly are normally much less stormy than in Westminster, it is rare to find deputés of opposing parties exchanging a friendly word in the corridors or meeting for a quiet drink in the bar after a debate. Each camp remains firmly entrenched.

Politics are a serious and often bitter business in France. A society hostess will take great care not to invite Socialists and Gaullists to the same dinner party for fear of an ugly explosion. To put up a poster in your front window during an election campaign declaring that you are for a certain political party is to invite a brick to be thrown through it.

A striking characteristic of recent local by-elections has been the very high abstention rate of something more than 65 per cent, which is most unusual in France. At a time of supposedly increasing politization, it is interesting to note the results of a poll last month asking people what government they would like after the next parliamentary elections: 27 per cent opted for a government of national unity, which made it the equal favourite choice of government along with one consisting of the two main opposition parties.

Disunity of left grows over budget vote

From Our Correspondent, Paris

The wide split between French Socialists and Communists, partners in government until July, turned into a canyon-like breach when Communist Deputies voted against their former allies at the end of the 1985 budget debate early yesterday.

The Socialists, who have an absolute majority in the Assembly, won the vote.

It was the first time since the left's election victory of 1981 that the Communists had taken this parliamentary step. Since their departure from government over the Socialists' austerity programme, they have engaged in a violent war of words and abstentions.

Their vote yesterday against the 1,000 billion franc (£89 billion) budget was not a surprise, as their 44-member group had been seeking a wide range of amendments to tax concessions that favour companies and landlords.

M André Lajoinis, the Communist Parliamentary leader, said there were 10,000 "millionaires" in France to be soaked and called for a doubling of taxes on large fortunes.

Communist leaders yesterday denied that their party was officially in opposition, but a former Communist minister, M Charles Fiterman, said: "Socialism has never been installed in France."

There is now a dangerous stand-off between the two parties before next year's cantonal elections and the 1986 parliamentary elections.

Le Monde candidate drops out

From Our Correspondent
Paris

The withdrawal of a front-runner for the job of editor and managing director of the financially shaky *Le Monde*, added to the confusion over the paper's future when the 200 journalists met yesterday to consider their choice for the post, which combines editorial and managerial responsibility.

Shortly before the meeting, which promised to be long and stormy, the paper's leading foreign affairs specialist, M André Fontaine, withdrew from the race to succeed M André Laurens, who resigned a fortnight ago.

M Laurens had sought to sell the paper's headquarters on a lease-back basis, to cut salaries and dispense with one of the two printing presses in an effort to stem losses, which have amounted to £7 million in recent years. These have resulted from a 70,000-copy drop in circulation to 360,000 each evening, due to the paper's sombre image and failure to distance itself from the Socialist government.

M Laurens also refused to accept the appointment of a co-director in charge of finance. M Fontaine had picked M Philippe Ramond, a former television executive. M Ramond came to the conclusion that the situation at *Le Monde* lacked the necessary "elan" and unity to encourage investors.

To be appointed editor, a candidate needs a 60 per cent vote by shareholders. The journalists hold 40 per cent of the shares. Some still support M Laurens, who has repeated that the building must be sold.

Today all the shareholders, journalists and non-journalists, will hold a mass meeting designed to pick an editor.



Santa on wheels: Members of the Longriders Motor-cycle Club of Western Massachusetts escorting a lorry full of toys to US Marine Corps reserves' for distribution to needy families.

Lee admits risk in son's Singapore political début

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's Prime Minister, admitted yesterday that the entry of his son into politics was a gamble for both of them.

At a rally of his People's Action Party in the run-up to Saturday's general election, he said that if his son, Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, failed to come up to expectations "he's in for a nasty time – and I'm in for a ruinous time".

Nevertheless, Mr Lee said, his son was among six of 26 candidates introduced by the party who were capable of being much more than MPs. His comments yesterday struck a rare personal note in a campaign which he has said will be his last before retiring – perhaps to stand as elected President with duties yet to be defined by Parliament.

Brigadier Lee, aged 32, retired as Deputy Commander of the Defence Forces, earlier this year to enter politics, giving rise to suggestions that his father is trying to start a dynasty. A prominent figure during the campaign, the brigadier's personal appeal has made an impression on an electorate dulled by virtual one-party rule.

Voters have been taking an unusual interest in the rallies of opposition candidates, with those of Mr Ben Jeyaretnam's Workers' Party and the Singapore Democratic Party of Mr Chiam See Tong being particularly well attended.

Times Profile, page 8

Another crisis in the Basque country

Leader sacked in party wrangle

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

The Basque Nationalist Party yesterday added a remarkable new page to nearly a century of dramatic ups and downs by dismissing its Chief Minister, the man who led it in the regional election last February.

Señor Carlos Garaicoechea, aged 46, who had contributed much in the past five years as chief executive to rebuild the Basque autonomous state, crushed by Franco after the civil war, was sacked because he refused to accept the party's ruling on a distribution of financial powers between his government and the three provinces which constitute the Basque country.

"The party has denied me indispensable support," Señor Garaicoechea said yesterday before informing the Speaker of the Basque Parliament, emphasizing that it was not a formal resignation. The party statutes require, however, that all members hold office at party discretion.

A successor is now being sought to fill the power vacuum in Spain's northern region, much troubled by ETA terrorism.

The party lacks a majority in the hung Parliament which emerged last February, and Señor Garaicoechea's supporters want to fight the party executive. The Chief Minister was negotiating a pact with the Basque Socialists which have offered a similar understanding to his successor.

Señor Garaicoechea was defeated by the peculiar but historic Basque hankering for the ancient *fueros* [rights] behind the two Carlist wars fought last century.

But it was a dispute over who controls the purse strings which sparked the crisis. Basque taxes are collected by the provinces which resented the Chief Minister's insistence that the Basque Government should have full powers to decide public spending.

Señor Garaicoechea represented the more modern social democratic wing of the middle-of-the-road nationalist party, while the executive is still dominated by Señor Xabier Arzallus, a former party chairman and former Jesuit with conservative views.

THE ARTS

Theatre: **Irving Wardle** on new productions in Paris and London

No escape from sacred repertory

Whatever the perishable novelties in the shop window, Paris theatre does most of its business with safe old brand names. Consult the listings, and there they all are again: the same charmed circle of favoured authors and indestructible stars. Madeleine Renaud still giving her *Happy Days* at the Rond-Point; Edwige Feuillère supposedly bidding her public farewell in Anouilh's *Léocadia* at the Champs-Elysées; Jean Meyer – whom I first saw in Feydeau's *Le Dindon* in the 1950s – directing that same farce at the Palais-Royale.

Meyer, thirty years ago, was playing with the Comédie-Française; and, as you comb through the Right Bank shows, it does seem as if the Comédie trains up its sociétaires to go out and colonize the commercial hinterland. The Variétés, for instance, is presenting *Les Temps difficiles*, an interesting piece by Edouard Bourdet, a pre-war administrator of the Comédie, directed by Pierre Dux, who lately held the same job and who has just made his comeback in Beckett's *Compagnie* at the Rond-Point. As for the sacred repertory, there is no escaping it, even for arch-rebels like Jérôme Savary, who now combines the direction of a *théâtre populaire* in Montpellier with running seasons at the Mogador. Here the old Savary is still visible in a children's show, *The Pig who went on a diet to marry a Pigess* (not to mention a forthcoming return of the Grand Magic Circus); but what is really pulling the crowds into the Mogador is Savary's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

To verify the feeling that nothing changes in Paris, I made a nostalgic return to the 60-seat Théâtre de la Hûchette – home of the Ionesco double bill that has been playing there since 1957. I was wrong. Not that the two productions have altered a scrap, but their director, Nicholas Bataille, has at last added a third. You sit through the embalmed routines of *La Cantatrice chauve* and *La Leçon*; and then – in *Offenbach, tu connais?* – you see the company wearily assembling in a cramped dressing room to prepare for yet another performance of the show they have been doing for the past 28 years. Anything rather than that. What about an escape into operetta? And, with the aid of mops, make-up towels, dustbin lids and a moody rehearsal pianist, they take off into *La Périchole* and *La Belle Hélène*, culminating with a spirited gallop executed in the sitting position. Ionesco it is not; but by that stage of the evening you are as grateful as the cast for a bit of poverty-theatre glamour.

A glance through the boulevard listings does not stir much interest in the up-market alternatives. One address offers a comedy about France's first wonan President whose husband promptly defects from the Elysée; another the sad story of an anorexic in a family of big eaters. You are hardly spoilt for choice when it comes to new writing; and the only novelty I decided to risk was a piece that first appeared in 1934.

Billed as "un *Dallas* bien français", **Les Temps difficiles** completes the cycle of bourgeois satires that Bourdet wrote during the Depression: a time when France experienced a deluge of industrial disasters, political scandals and governmental crises.



Eclipsing all since Richardson: Jacques Weber's open-hearted sincerity as Cyrano, with the spirited Nicole Jamet

Bourdet reflects this sense of impending collapse in the story of a wealthy family poised on the edge of ruin, and ready to use any means to defend itself. Jérôme, the head of an endangered company, first patches things up with his alienated brother, Marcel, to dissuade him from selling his shares. Marcel's daughter then catches the eye of one of Jérôme's visitors – a brain-damaged industrial heir – and a marriage is swiftly arranged to repair the family fortunes. But no sooner has Bob, the idiot bridegroom, reduced his wife to a state of sleepless misery than it emerges that his millions, too, have vanished in gambling debts; and the two clans are left facing joint bankruptcy.

The interesting point is that Bourdet emerges as a thoroughly bourgeois writer, whose criticism is exclusively reserved for those who fail to uphold the correct bourgeois values. Three codes of manners are involved: those of Jérôme, who runs his family and his business as a regal autocrat; those of Bob and his mother, who fatally neglects her business responsibility for the enjoyment of money; and those of Marcel, who lives a quasi-artistic life supported on unearned income. The artistry of the piece consists of deploying the three groups so that each exposes the weaknesses of the others. Marcel, for instance, is superficially the most attractive of the principals: but, in spite of his vaunted belief in love and happiness, he caves in and allows his daughter to be sacrificed for money.

Jérôme, conversely, may appear a ruthless egoist; but he is also an honest man who lays out the reasons for the marriage deal without the smallest deception. As for Bob's millionaire mother, first seen as an idle *précieuse*, she finally stands her ground and meets Jérôme's bitter accusations with the stoical line "You're right".

The *Variétés* production is most sumptuously set by Georges Wakhevitch, whose palatial first-act veranda intensifies the glacial chill of Jérôme's lifelessly well-bred household. With the arrival of the other groups, the ice speedily breaks up; notably at the entrance of Marcel's rowdy family who turn their side of the stage into a games area with the spirited old grandma, while the remaining ladies telegraph their disapproval with the frosty click of knitting needles. The grandmother is played by Denise Grey, an enchanting actress who made her début at the Folies-Bergère in 1915. The casting throughout Dux's production is superlative; and the central duel between Guy Tréjan's commandingly adipose captain of industry and Jean-Pierre Cassel's wry, shoulder-shrugging artist-type brings a classic collision of Gallic opposites.

Cyrano, whatever compromises it may represent, is a whale of a show, in which Savary's brand of panache runs in fine tandem with that of Rostand's hero. The opening fracas in the Hôtel de Bourgogne, with Gascon cadets and traders of all kinds whooping it up in the jungle style of Savary's Zartan adventures, is barely comprehensible even to the French.

And I doubt the wisdom of presenting the villainous De Guiche (Yann Babilée) as a befrilled pansy given to asthmatic coughs whenever he strikes his mailed chest. Otherwise the anarchy is well under control, and overflowing with apt sight gags. Not only does Savary send Roxane to the front line in a coach with a galloping horse; he then flies the coach to the roof when the cannons open up.

Customers have a choice of four actors in the title role. Jacques Weber, whom I had the good luck to see, eclipses every performance I can remember since Ralph Richardson. He passes the first Cyrano test by opting for a genuinely grotesque nose, which he uses as aggressively as his rapier; and couples his bravado with an open-hearted sincerity that leaves him totally vulnerable in his dealings with Roxane. She, in turn (Nicole Jamet), emerges as a spirited coquette (arriving on the battlefield in purple thigh boots) instead of the bloodless beauties we have seen in the National and RSC revivals; and the partnership of Weber and Jamet with Bernard Bollet's blond, dull-witted Christian lifts the balcony scene to an exalted plane of romance, buffoonery and wit. Of the major directors whose work I saw on this trip, only Savary seems to love his actors.

Kissing God
Hampstead

Like *Crystal Clear*, Phil Young's new company-devised piece opens with the delicate first moves in what proves to be a horrendous love affair.

Amy, lately installed in a bed-sit which she has crammed with her teddy-bears and Tokyo souvenirs, receives a shy visit from her Mark, an obliging landlord who instantly agrees to saw down the table-legs to the Japanese height to accommodate her jigsaws, and then sits entranced at the story of her blighted ballet career.

By scene two, he has escorted her to Covent Garden and back home for a bottle of champagne, at which point it emerges that her only interest in him is as a heroin addict from whom she wants her first fix.

Amy's friend Babbli also has a male companion, Harry, whom she takes back to the room in hopes of more than companionship. But, apart from giggling over their joint experiences as volunteer nursery workers, Harry is as impregnably secretive as a clam, until Amy crashes in, bleeding from a bungled self-injection; whereupon Harry too emerges as a long-term addict now going back on the needle.

Social preliminaries out of the way, the three junkies settle in for an unobstructed slide down to degredation and death.

Kissing God is a serious examination of a desperately urgent social malady. But so were the Victorian temperance dramas with which, it has to be said, this play has things in common: such as the coincidental reunion of Mark and Harry (who first got him hooked) and the parlour song-book appeals on behalf of Amy's unborn child.

As a dramatic subject, drug-addiction has the added disadvantage of eroding character. Here are three people of variously interesting temperament, all gradually levelled to the condition where everything they say or do is focused on the banal imperative of getting the next fix.

Babbli, the working-class outsider, pathetically asks why such people – Mark a former doctor, Harry a university graduate – should need the stuff. The play answers that question for Amy, who takes to Cloud Nine when her balletic dream collapses. But all the men have to say in explanation is that heroin is their refuge from fear.

Neither in its penetration into the subject nor in emotional power does this piece sustain the quality of *Crystal Clear*. It is, however, an expert example of the collective method, containing some ingenious long-range plotting, beautifully worked out routines and deeply committed performances. The plot succeeds in creating surprises from harrowingly predictable material. It is clear, for instance, that somebody is going to die; but the timing and the identity of the victim come as a brutal shock. So does the abrupt transformation of Amy's room from a womb-like retreat full of pretty things to a bare, squalid den.

Kate Lock's Amy, witchily secretive from the start and still pirouetting for her admirers, undergoes an appallingly well-imagined alteration into unfeeling obsession, nails tearing into pockets for money, or staging ladylike comebacks in a ghastly pretence of normal behaviour. David Bamber (Mark) equals her in his alteration from extreme gentleness to brutal, lying self-pity, finally stealing the door of the room as the last thing he has to sell. The other parts are less showy, but finely played by Feroza Syal and Anton Lesser.

Television

Subtle delights

"It's so Bromley to speak well of people behind their backs", declared an unattractive debutante in the last of Frederic Raphael's series **Oxbridge Blues** (BBC2). This oddly assorted collection of plays has not brought out the Bromley in most critics during its run, but last night's endpiece, *Sleeps Six*, was a splendid conclusion.

The plot concerned the rivalry of a whiz-kid working-class film producer and his languid, aristocratic agent. Raphael seems to have a great gift for causing irritation in his critics; there is a flippant fluency about his dialogue, which sounds too clever by half ("My condiments to the chef"). Unlike many British-born dramatists, Raphael unflinchingly deals with the champagne life-style – the climax of this piece took place in a luxurious villa in the south of France and all the sequences which charmingly established our hero's warm, loving, caring-sharing family life took place around the free-form swimming pool. Such sophistication is apparently offensive, not least when combined with viciously accurate observation of a kind of intellectual *demi-monde* in which renegade intellectuals shamelessly acquire wealth by peddling mass entertainment.

James Cellan Jones, who produced and directed *Sleeps Six*, handled the script's firecracker witticisms and gossamer nuances of caste with absolute confidence; there were marvellous performances by the three principal actors – Ben Kingsley as the producer, with a semi-rehabilitated Sarf Lunnon accent, Jeremy Child as the embittered, promiscuous blueblood and Diane Keen in the thankless role of idealized domestic goddess.

The characters of the two men, built up with delightful subtlety, were so satisfyingly familiar that the play had the air of a *roman-à-clef*. Their antagonism began in a lovingly recreated Sixties coffee bar as nothing more than twitting on the grounds of class – a newly discovered conversational topic in that era. As their relationship developed, and fame and fortune accrued, the two men were locked together in fruitless rivalry like doomed stags with tangled antlers.

While our hero enjoyed worldly success, he was still consumed by envy of his friend's social position, while the lord was equally eaten up by jealousy. At the end, with the accuracy of an intimate enemy, he found his friend's Achilles' heel.

Celia Brayfield

London debuts

Unusual clarity

The pianist **Arthur Rowe** from Alberta, in his recital at Canada House, displayed an unusual clarity of articulation at the keyboard, not only in his rhythmic urgency in Mozart's B flat Sonata, K570, but in the steadiness of direction with which he invested Chopin's *Polonaise-Fantaisie*. This often elusive work was stripped for action at the outset, as it were, then generated a developing tension while it also gathered poetry of expression.

The programme included *Six Aphorisms* by Mr Rowe's fellow-Canadian and professor of music at the University of Alberta, Alfred Fisher, which explored sonorities of piano wires plucked and stroked as well as the full reach of the keyboard. Sometimes reminiscent of Messiaen in their figuration, they put technical effects at the service of attractive ideas.

The **St Clements Orchestra** would seem to be a new guise for the small ensemble of 15-16 strings, plus wind instruments as required, favoured by Martindale Sidwell to accompany his long-standing St Clement Dane Chorale, from the Strand church where he has been director of music for over 25 years. The full forces were engaged for a Vivaldi setting of the Gloria that was distinguished by lithe string playing, especially in the faster sections.

Diana Cummings and Desmond Heath as principal first and second violins were joyously matched in their florid solo embellishment of the chorale melody in Bach's jubilant Cantata No 51, *Jauchzet Gott*.

Mr Sidwell favoured straightforward readings, sparing of ornament, enabling Mark Wildman's burnished bass to speak eloquently for the certain faith of the "Purification" Cantata, No 82, *Ich habe genug*. Here, as also in Vivaldi, the oboe playing Tess Miller was of a jewelled artistry, and the orchestra gave buoyant support to the baroque registration and dancing spirit of John Scott's solo playing in Handel's B flat Organ Concerto, Op 7 No 1.

Noël Goodwin

Dance

Royal Ballet
Sadler's Wells

How mistaken one can be. When Frederick Ashton made his ballet *The Dream* for the Shakespeare quartercentenary, 20 years ago, it was recognized as a workmanlike and entertaining piece but generally thought too long and too old-fashioned to endure. Well, the other ballet created that night has long disappeared, but *The Dream* has become a staple in the repertory of both Royal Ballet companies, besides being taken up by companies abroad.

It was the centrepiece of Tuesday night's programme at Sadler's Wells, opening the resident company's short Christmas and New Year season. There were no childish voices to sing Titania to sleep (economy, or the consequence of school holidays?), but Bramwell Tovey conducted a decent account of the score which John Lanchbery arranged from Mendelssohn's incidental music.

The reason the ballet has worn so well is that Ashton tells the story clearly with a minimum of simple, direct mime that anyone can understand, and a maximum of attractive, expressive dancing. Oberon is one of his best parts for a romantic hero, partly because there is a sharp edge to the character, which Roland Price brought out well on Tuesday while investing the long, glittering solos with a smooth flow and bright finish.

Bottom is no less outstanding a role, and also had a notable performance from David Bintley. He gives full relish to the parody solo that begins his transmogrification, glows with unexpected pleasure on meeting Titania, and puts his own gloss on the end of his adventure, accepting normality with almost as much pleasure as he does his memories.

Among the other solo roles, the quiet courtesy of Alain Dubreuil's Lysander gave most pleasure, but these are all good parts that continue to make their effect even on repeated viewing, and a familiar cast performed them with practised ease.

This is also one of the few recent ballets that give much scope to the corps de ballet. The women have two long and complex entries as followers of Titania, and the group of men who play the rustics have a dance of such comic invention and liveliness that its comparative brevity is hardly noticed.

While *The Dream* has gone from strength to strength, Kenneth MacMillan's *Concerto* has come to look a little threadbare. That is partly because there is not much in the way of alternative choices if you want a plotless ballet by this choreographer, and over-exposure has worn its virtues thin while exposing its weaknesses, chief among which is the dreary writing for the corps.

It also has to be said that the work is not so well danced nowadays as used to be the case. Among the five principals at this opening performance, only Sherilyn Kennedy, leading the third movement, really made her solos gleam through the finesse of her steps and her timing.

Nicola Katrak and David Yow danced gaily but too approximately in the first movement; Clare French and Carl Myers gave charm but no great depth to the second. The supporting couples on the whole outshone the principals.

Prokovsky's brief *Vocalise* and MacMillan's *Elite Syncopations* completed the bill.

John Percival

Pop music

Culture Club
Wembley Arena

Of all the supergroups currently vying for public attention Culture Club and their lead singer Boy George seem the most vulnerable. The title of their recent album, *Waking Up With the House on Fire*, tempts fate, as does their American single "Mistake Number Three"; their last singles, "The War Song" and "The Medal Song", were so appalling they could only be defined as mistakes numbers one and two.

Meanwhile, in certain quarters, there are allegations that Culture Club's once impregnable popularity is on the wane, that there is a backlash against their flamboyant leader manifest in a shyness at box-office and record counter. Judging by Culture Club's early dates at Wembley there is some substance to these murmurs even if remours of the killing of Boy George have been greatly exaggerated.

Surprisingly, the Boy did spend an inordinate amount of time justifying his presence; his comments between songs, usually so sharp, sounded like the utterances of someone in need of reassurance.

Much of George's patter, and his constant nervous cackling between numbers, was reminiscent of someone re-writing his own history. He referred to himself as "one of the last of a dying breed: pure beef", before launching into his macho put-down "Mister Man", self-deprecatingly called himself "an [illegible] favourite" and asked the audience whether he was wearing too much make-up. Of course he was. Some of this was standard George campness but the overhead video screen accentuated his worry.

The biggest irony of all was that Culture Club were rather good. True, they miss the larger-than-life visual and vocal contribution of the departed singer Helen Terry, and their new material is less persuasive than the older hits, but George's performance is still liable to put a smile on the face.

Culture Club will eventually stand or fall on the quality of their leader's songs, but George has too much personality and sense of survival to let a little thing like a temporary artistic mental block cramp his style.

Max Bell

The man who worked an economic miracle

The Times Profile: Lee Kuan Yew

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who is celebrating a quarter of a century as Prime Minister of Singapore, will fight his last general election on Saturday. It is no accident that the tiny republic is also marking 25 years of nationhood this year and that Mr Lee is the longest-serving Head of Government in the Commonwealth.

Several important dates could have been chosen as marking the emergence of Singapore as a separate entity, but the first election victory of the People's Action Party (PAP) with Mr Lee at its head is apt. To the rest of the world Singapore is Lee Kuan Yew and while that designation does a disservice to his fellow founders of the party there is no doubt that without Lee Singapore would not have enjoyed its remarkable economic success.

Mr Lee has never been one for half measures. He and his tightly-controlled, highly developed tropical island provoke marked responses of admiration or revulsion. Economists and investors have nothing but praise for the way Mr Lee and his Ministers have created an oasis of honesty and stability in an area not known for either, but liberals and *aficionados* of pure Western-style democracy are appalled at the social

'He has driven the island towards economic, political and social perfection'

engineering which the Government has thought necessary to produce that result.

Singapore's mixture of State and private capitalism, underpinned by Mr Lee's unique blend of Confucianism and democracy, has been so attractive to investors that by 1981 one survey rated Singapore the least politically risky for investment of 45 countries, including Switzerland, the United States, Japan and West Germany.

Geography and some inspired work by the successors of Sir Stamford Raffles, who claimed the island for Britain in 1819, laid the foundations of modern Singapore. But it was Mr Lee, with help from the British behind the scenes, who pulled the country out of incipient chaos in the early 1950s.

With important contributions from other members of what he likes to call the "Old Guard", and economic advice from abroad, Mr Lee has given the whole form substance and driven the island's 2,500,000 Chinese, Malays and Indians forward towards his vision of economic, political and social perfection.

He is shaping not just a friction-free, multi-racial society but – as Communists, whose concepts he has occasionally borrowed, have attempted to do – he is moulding a New Man, geared to the economic demands of the 1980s. The energy and discipline of the East are being combined with the practical and innovative skills of the West and cemented by the English language, which is now the principal language of education and the de facto national language, despite Government pretensions to the contrary. If Mr Lee's concept is successful Singapore will become a high technology service and financial centre for Asia, conducting most of its daily business life in English but using Mandarin, Tamil and Malay to preserve its cultural roots.

Mr Lee was destined early for high achievement. His grandfather, of Hakka immigrant stock from China, decreed that he should be educated to be the equal of any Englishman. The young Lee was a brilliant student, winning a scholarship to Singapore's elite Raffles College. There he met his future wife, Miss Kwa Geok Choo, who, like him, read law at Cambridge. She was the first woman from Malaya to be awarded First Class honours, which she took after only two years, a feat which outdistanced her future husband.

Mr Lee's departure for Cambridge was delayed by the war. During the Japanese occupation he worked for the Japanese news agency Domei. As the war ended he showed the first signs of an instinctive sense of timing for tactical withdrawal, so important in a Chinese leader: he sped off to the Cameron Highlands hill station in Malaya because he feared what the returning British might say about his work for the Japanese. That episode has been excised from some accounts of the period, apparently for fear it would make Mr Lee look cowardly. Whatever his other faults he has never publicly displayed a lack of either physical or moral courage. But the notion of running away to fight another day has served him throughout his political career.



Lee Kuan Yew whose winning formula brought Singapore from chaos to stability

Certainly his political views since his student days have described the classic arc from left to right. A fellow student at Raffles and co-founder of PAP recalls: "He was never really a socialist. At Raffles he was always known as a snob." Singapore's later resignation from the Socialist International, shortly before it was to be expelled, tends to confirm Mr Lee's political transformation.

Singapore's public housing policy had all the hallmarks of socialism in its earliest manifestations. But in recent years, in common with other government programmes, Mr Lee has placed more and more responsibility for the people's welfare on themselves and their employers. A constant theme of Ministerial speeches is the admonition that people should not run to the Government for succour the moment they have problems.

In Mr Lee's Singapore of 1984 it is sometimes hard to imagine that he took such an anti-colonial stand before independence. There are now more Europeans in the country than before the British left, and most of the economy is foreign-owned.

But his love-hate relationship with the British remains. No one regrets more than Lee Kuan Yew that Britain's world role has diminished or that its economic performance is marred by seemingly uncontrollable forces. As well as his Cambridge education, the influence of his censor, Mr W. S. Thatcher, gave the young Lee an unbending Victorian sense of moral correctness and an extraordinary example of fortitude in living an ordinary life despite the debilitating effects of a gas attack suffered in the First World War.

Mr Lee is more articulate and lucid in English and in his political analysis than many of his contemporaries in Britain and the United States whose global views he broadly shares. But that does not make him a Westerner in the fullest sense. Despite the fact that he learned Chinese later in life many of his fundamental attitudes are the product of Chinese rather than British culture. At heart he is very much Chinese.

The Western side of his make-up, with the Cambridge Doube First in law, sees to it that Singapore is ruled meticulously within the law, but his Chinese pragmatism sees nothing wrong in changing that law retrospectively to meet changing circumstances.

With a constituency of only 2,500,000, Mr Lee has the advantage of having an almost laboratory atmosphere: his relentlessly logical intellectual solutions to human problems can be applied with relative ease, especially with only a token Opposition in Parliament. At times Prime Minister Lee gives every indication of forgetting that there are human beings involved. On one memorable occasion he referred to Singaporeans as digits.

His latest concern, that Singapore will gradually breed less capable workers if the less privileged strata of society continue to have a higher birthrate than the well-educated, has created controversy both inside and outside the country. His response is classic Lee Kuan Yew: to offer less well-educated women who have already borne two children 10,000 Singapore dollars to be sterilized.

Flashback: Lee celebrates after the 1959 elections

Mr Lee's radical approach would by untenable almost anywhere else in the world but, as with most things in Singapore, the majority are willing to concede that their leader is usually right and to comply grudgingly with his dicta. Educated women are being coerced into producing more children in an equally direct manner.

Mr Lee believes that intellectually gifted parents necessarily produce bright children. The evidence is around him: he has a brilliant wife, and all his children have been gifted.

"That's the trouble for both Lee and Singapore. He has always been surrounded by brilliance in his own family. He just doesn't understand what it is like to be ordinary," a former diplomat explained.

The offer of cash for sterilization was just the latest in a series of controversial measures relating to the family. In this case it came direct from the Prime Minister's Office, which means that it is unlikely to be negotiable.

Other, less crucial ideas are often floated by a Minister, and if they sink it is the Minister's career that suffers. The National University of Singapore and State concerns are replete with potential political leaders who did not meet Mr Lee's exacting standards or who misinterpreted a directive.

The Prime Minister is quite ruthless with those who fail him. A leader of the tame National Trades Union Council who spent too much time building a personal power base rather than selling government policy was publicly unfrocked and sent off to manage the national shipping line.

Mr Lee has never had many friends since he became Prime Minister. Gone are the days when he would have a few beers with local journalists. He has always sought to isolate himself, not only from his wife's law practice but from any exposure to requests for political favours.

He used to play golf with his Press secretary as partner but has now taken up jogging, which requires no partner.

What remains of Mr Lee's milk of human kindness is for political colleagues, so long as they play their role and contribute in a way that he believes they should. Once their usefulness is gone, so are they.

Apart from his strong-willed wife there are perhaps only three people in Singapore, all old political comrades, who will stand up to Lee Kuan Yew, and to whom he may occasionally concede. They qualify because they have shared experiences. They know what it was like to struggle through the early years of Singapore, the battle against the Communists and then the

'Mr Lee rarely fails to consult an old priest before major decisions'

unexpected and unwelcome split from the Federation of Malaysia in 1965.

Though she is rarely seen at public functions, Mrs Lee is a strong influence. Said to be a more gifted lawyer than her husband, she has run the family law firm, Lee and Lee, since the early days. By European standards the idea of the Prime Minister's wife running the country's leading law firm might be thought inadvisable. Mrs Lee is unperturbed by such thoughts, and one attempt to cast doubt on the probity of the operation brought hefty damages in the wake of a lost law suit.

Just as the agnostic Mr Lee rarely fails to consult an old Chinese priest before taking a major decision, Mrs Lee is able to make points that may not have occurred to the Prime Minister. She interviews all new Parliamentary candidates and their wives. In a sense she follows in the footsteps of Mr Lee's late mother, who kept the young Lee on track and ensured his education after his father took to gambling and frittered away a fortune.

After the left wing boycotted Parliament in the 1960s Mr Lee was left without a Parliamentary Opposition until 1981 when the leader of the workers' party, Mr J. B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, won a seat. Mr Jeyaretnam is a kindly, well-meaning lawyer who sometimes appears to be a politician as much out of duty to his late wife as anything else. He is scarcely Mr Lee's equal in a political skills, and his debut in Parliament saw Mr Lee at his most scornful and disparaging out of shock at Mr Jeyaretnam's unexpected victory.

It was a dramatic reverse for a Chinese leader. In a Confucian society there is no room for loyal opposition. The Confucian leader, to be seen to have the mandate of heaven, must rule with absolute authority and with the people's confidence in him to provide just and honest government.

Of perhaps greater concern was the indication that Mr Jeyaretnam's election could lead to an Opposition, offering bread and circuses, who might dissipate all that Singapore has built up.

For years the principal political question in Singapore has been: "Who will succeed Mr Lee when he goes?" Mr Lee has said that this election will be his last as Prime Minister: in four years' time he will stand down for one of the young technocrats whose careers he has fostered while subjecting them to rigorous examination.

Maintenance of Singapore's corruption-free record, such an important element of its success, will require a man of similar personality to Lee's. This weekend he will therefore be watching keenly the progress of his son, Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, who retired recently from his position in charge of Army planning and intelligence co-ordination. The younger Lee, still only 32, is virtually certain of winning a seat and is being spoken of also as a possible successor.

Mr Lee has apparently mellowed in his aversion to an Opposition as such, and up to three losing Opposition candidates will be offered Parliamentary places with limited voting rights after the election. Lee still plays hard at politics, however, and would be delighted if PAP secured another clean-sweep victory.

What then is left to him personally? The new Parliament is likely to enact legislation creating an elected President who would have powers to prevent a government from spending reserves which it had not itself accumulated. Mr Lee has indicated he might be interested in the job.

David Watts

HIS RISE TO POWER

1923 Born September 16.
Educated Raffles College, Singapore, and Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (Hon. Fellow 1969); double first Law Tripos with star for special distinction.
1950 Called to Bar, Middle Temple.
1950 Married Kwa Geok Choo; two sons, one daughter
1951 Advocate and solicitor, Singapore.
1954 Formed People's Action Party, Singapore.
1959 Prime Minister.

LEE'S WIT AND WISDOM

The ending of colonialism does not in itself result in social and economic progress: it provides the opportunities for it – *Address to non-aligned summit, Lusaka, 1970.*

Let others play checkers: we play chess – *1972.*

I don't know why Amnesty International always picks on people who are not very popular with Communists – *1974.*

For every person you lock up, you antagonize a lot of neutrals. So when you do lock a chap up it has to be worth the minuses – *On Singapore's political detainees, 1974.*

We have a reputation, which I hope is somewhat deserved, that we are a kind of little Switzerland in South-East Asia. – *Commonwealth Conference. 1975.*

Our unions are different: if we had British-style trade unionism we should be bankrupt, finished – *1976.*

When you are in a jam and you change governments you are still in a jam – *Election campaign, 1976.*

If the United States, Western Europe and Japan cannot summon up the will to check growing Soviet strategic and conventional supremacy, then they will be helpless when their access to vital materials like oil is blocked – *1981.*

I don't need to seek fulfilment vicariously. – *On suggestions that his son's entry into politics is an attempt to create a dynasty, 1984.*

moreover . . . Miles Kington

We proudly present a complete Christmas novel today and tomorrow by arrangement with Mills and Bang, the world's leading publishers of romantic military fiction – the only kind of fiction that appeals to both men and women!

A Falkland Passion
by Venetia Barnstraw

Chapter One

Georgia's first thought when she arrived in Port Stanley was that the shops were terribly drab. Oh, she knew that she was 7,000 miles from Bond Street, but really! Did everything have to be so provincial and boring? It was, after all, the week before Christmas and the nearest thing she could see to a Christmas present was an SAS balaclava helmet with holly stuck in it.

Then suddenly she realized it didn't matter. She had no one to buy presents for. She had come out here to the Falklands to start a new life and to forget Terry. For a moment, Terry's familiar crinkled face with its roguish smile swam in front of her, but she fought against the memory. She had to report to Falklands Stores HQ, where she was to act as secretary to one Captain Bolsover. They said that work made you forget . . .

Some soldiers were coming down the street, singing.

"Captain Bolsover?" said one of them, leering. "Don't bother with him, love. You'll have a much better time with B Company, eh lads?"

Chapter Two

"Don't worry about the men", said Captain Bolsover. "They mean no harm. It's just that they haven't seen a pretty girl for years and you mustn't forget that men are brutes below the surface."

"You too?" said Georgia, daringly. It was only her second day in the office, but already she felt she could trust his straight, Italianate features, so different from Terry's – damn! She mustn't think about Terry.

"I'm not a man", said Bolsover. "I'm an officer." He laughed attractively. "But seriously, you'd do well to keep away from the soldiers. And the construction workers. And the natives. I'm afraid that just leaves the sheep. "But tell me, what *really* brings you here?"

"The end of an affair", said Georgia, blushing. "His name was Terry. I thought he loved me, but really he loved his boat more. And when he told me he was going to sail round the world . . ."

Chapter Three

It had been a hard day for Dick Bolsover. As if it wasn't bad enough having Italianate features – his nickname among the men was Luigi, and the officers called him Rococo to his face – he had been out for a stroll among the hills and come across a soldier who had run amuck. Driven crazy by boredom and rain, the man had taken his rifle and started shooting sheep at random. Captain Bolsover had to arrest him, of course, but the big problem was the dead sheep. Could the men face roast mutton again?

"I know a rather good recipe for lamb marinaded in wine and garlic", said Georgia later.

At supper that night there was a near-mutiny among them over what they called this foreign muck.

Is this love? he asked himself. *(Is it love? Or appreciation of good cooking? Or merely some mischievous Italian chromosomes resurfacing? Don't miss tomorrow's thrilling sequel!)*

Saturday

Quiz Christmas

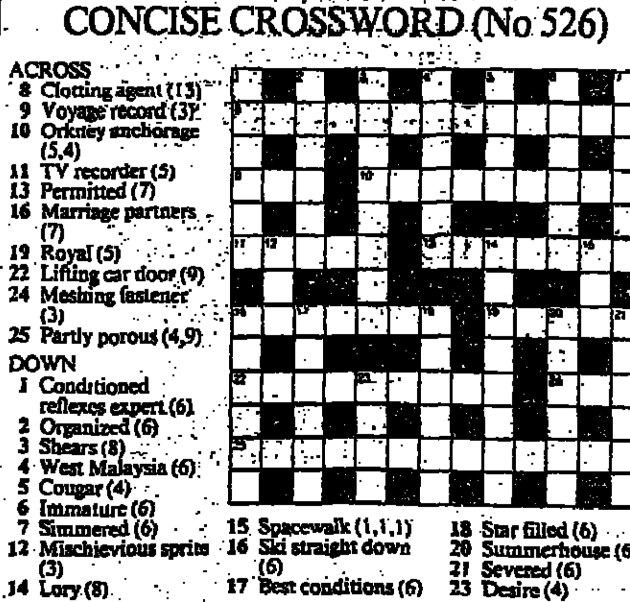
This year's Prize Jumbo Crossword with a £50 prize for the first five correct solutions and The Times Quiz – 108 taxing questions and a £250 first prize – will appear on Saturday.

● The bargain port for Christmas

● Your complete guide to films on television during Christmas week

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 526)



ACROSS
8 Clotting agent (13)
9 Voyage record (3)
10 Orkney anchorage (5,4)
11 TV recorder (5)
13 Permitted (7)
16 Marriage partners (7)
19 Royal (5)
22 Lifting car door (9)
24 Meshing fastener (3)
25 Partly porous (4,9)

DOWN
1 Conditioned reflexes expert (6)
2 Organized (6)
3 Shears (8)
4 West Malaysia (6)
5 Cougar (4)
6 Immature (6)
7 Simmered (6)
12 Mischievious sprite (3)
14 Lory (8)
15 Spacewalk (1,1,1)
16 Ski straight down (6)
17 Best conditions (6)
18 Star filled (6)
20 Summerhouse (6)
21 Severed (6)
23 Desire (4)

SOLUTION TO No 525

ACROSS 1 Hard up 4 Metope 7 Lack 8 Sagacity 9 Intrepid 13 Eat 16 Uninformative 17 Foe 19 Roentgen 24 Adenoids 25 Stab 26 Origin 27 Latent

DOWN 1 Halt 2 Reconcile 3 Piste 4 Magri 5 Tack 6 Pitta 10 Refer 11 Purge 12 Draft 13 Epicentre 14 Then 15 Surf 18 Order 20 Onion 21 Nasal 22 Snag 23 Obit

BOOKS

Sapphist letters turned to dust

Fiona MacCarthy

THE LETTERS OF VITA SACKVILLE-WEST TO VIRGINIA WOOLF
Edited by Louise DeSalvo and Mitchell A. Leaska
Hutchinson, £12.95

On the 14th of December 1922, Mrs Leonard Woolf met Mrs Harold Nicolson, the novelist Vita Sackville-West, a florid, moustached aristocrat, a pronounced Sapphist, as Virginia Woolf described her with tremulous excitement. She was intrigued by Vita but doubtful of her chances. The next day she wrote wistfully "But could I ever know her?" As it turned out, as I need hardly tell you, the denouement being familiar to everbody literate on both sides of the Atlantic, Mrs Woolf knew Mrs Nicolson very well indeed.

Their relationship, though not perhaps precisely living up to the current claims of Messrs Hutchinson that this is one of the most searingly intense affairs that literary history has ever seen, definitely had its moments. I especially enjoy the swashbuckling language affected by the ladies, and the sexual imagery is most intriguing, involving shaggy sheep dogs, squirrels, donkeys even porpoises. (Porpoises in fishmongers, laid out on marble slabs.) The account of the affair in Victoria Glendinning's marvellous biography of Vita was, I found, compulsive reading, and the Virginia-to-Vita correspondence included in Vol. 3 of the Virginia Woolf Letters is endlessly fascinating, maddening, and moving. There is no reason not to want a new instalment. All the more disappointing to have to report honestly that this latest volune, Vita's Letters to Virginia, is, if not quite dull as ditchwater, a little unenthralling.

Why is it so deadly? Well the warning bells sound early with the information that these letters have been edited in the USA not only by Dr Mitchell A Leaska, author of *Virginia Woolf's Lighthouse*, but also by Associate Professor Louise DeSalvo, who has written, by some all too predictable coincidence, a further learned treatise, *Virginia Woolf's First Voyage*. (One is hardly reassured to be told that Dr Leaska is literary consultant to the Psychoanalytic Review whilst Professor DeSalvo had edited a collection of feminist essays entitled, somewhat humourlessly, *Between Women*.) Could this team be rather heavyweight for what is after all not a work of any formal, solemn literary endeavour, just the odd spontaneous letters, the outpouring of endearments, from one lady to another? It could be, and it is. This book, I fear, is an example of the madness which takes over when a love affair becomes the material for research.


Vita in 1924

One can see (and if one couldn't it is firmly pointed out in the editorial preface, which singularly lacks the human virtue of humility) that the editors have done marvels in the way of, for example, establishing the exact chronological order of these several hundred sometimes short and pretty ordinary letters, much concerned with dinner dates and travel routes and ailing livestock, which Vita, not foreseeing the needs of academe, had often dated carelessly. Some, for instance just say "Friday". A serious problem when, as fairly often, the letters had been posted in Germany or Persia.

The editors, undaunted by the vicissitudes of the international postal service c.1927, expect a corresponding dedication from their readers, suggesting a do-it-yourself method of cross-referencing which shows a rather touching faith in human energy. When the reader comes across, for instance, the annotation "See VW 1733", he/she is instructed to turn to *The Letters of Virginia Woolf*, and refer to the letter numbered 1733.

Compared with Nigel Nicolson's elegant, intelligent introduction to the letters of Virginia, Mitchell E. Leaska's introduction to Vita is curiously sycophantic and uncertain, with something of the tone of the awestruck first-time visitor to England's stately homes. How easy it is, be comments, to imagine Vita as a child "roaming the hundreds of rooms of Knole ... imagining their history, inventing little fables of beauty, valour and bloodshed." Dr Leaska is also a master of clairvoyancy, an editorial technique of questionable usefulness. In 1925 Vita "could not of course foresee that in three years time she would be reading about herself, garbed as Orlando, skating on the Thames during the Great Frost". Well no.

Down among the footnotes – a realm in which the Leaska-/DeSalvo conglomerate again rates rather badly in comparison with Nicholson's annotation of Virginia Woolf's letters and indeed with Anne Olivier Bell's admirably level-headed footnotes to the Diary – the editorial tendency to overkill is rampant.

Such treatment diminishes its subject. Even Vita. She was not (unlike Virginia) the world's best letter writer. This style of reverentially unselective editing makes the more banal of her letters seem mundaner, and even the exciting ones acquire a certain crudity. For instance this letter dated 1927:

But how right I was ... to force myself upon you at Richmond, and to lay the trail for the explosion which happened on the sofa in my room here when you behaved so disgracefully and acquired me for ever.

This is Vita Sackville-West but pretty nearly Radclyffe Hall.

Was she saint or bitch?

James Fenton on the first life of our dear Jane for a generation

THE LIFE OF JANE AUSTEN
By John Halperin
Harvester, £25

Considering how many books about her get published, it is surprising to find that the last detailed critical biography of Jane Austen was published in 1938. The novelist holds after all a secure place both in the esteem of the academic community, and in the admiration of what Sir Walter Scott called, in his review of her work, the "middling classes".

Scott actually said that her subject is life among the middling classes, and here one is slightly taken aback. From the distance of time, and without thinking about it too much, one sees Jane Austen's world as rather upper than middling. But that is because everything that seemed to her contempories perfectly ordinary (carriages, balls, trips to Bath, the enforced leisure of women) has acquired an extraordinarily romantic glow. The sentimental novelists of today no doubt look to Jane Austen as their patron saint, whereas she was in fact their enemy.

The tone of her writing is satirical, and, to use a term from Professor Halperin's book, realist. And yet. It's odd, isn't it, that for so many people reading Jane Austen is a form of escapism. (The reader will see by now that I can't decide how to abbreviate the author's name: if I call her plain Austen, she sounds like a parlourmaid; if I call her Jane, I will be thought sentimental.) Perhaps a key to the tone of some of the novelist's critics lies in the fact that they are writing not against the author so much as against her unthinking admirers.

They want to put an end to this idea that the novels are pretty. They are probably the same people who want to rescue Chekhov from his reputation for lugubriousness. They tell us that Chekhov is uproariously funny and that Jane Austen is cold-hearted and nasty. But we are always slipping back into our old bad habits. Chekhov turns melancholy again, and nasty Miss Austen turns to Jane. People start calling their daughters Emma, although not, for some reason, Fanny. There is a world of Jane Austen, and it is one full of opportunity for fantasy and for the free wandering of the imagination.

Naturally, criticism must try to curb this tendency in us.

Professor Halperin has an uneasy relationship with his subject-matter. He does not for a moment believe that Jane Austen's memory will be much affected by anything that he or any other individual writes about her. He has tried to be careful without being overly cautious, conservative in his assessment of the facts without being uninteresting, and so on. He tells us this in the foreword and we rather wonder why he is telling us. Is it because, since 1938, there has been no material change in the state of our knowledge of Jane Austen and her age? That appears improbable, but the possibility seems to worry Professor Halperin.

He is aware that the Austen family were careful to tidy up Jane Austen's reputation when they presented their evidence to the public; and that a great deal of what was said amounted to piety; and that much evidence has been destroyed. It should still be possible, since after all there is much documentary evidence left, to produce an interesting and complex account. The trouble is, the discussion tends to dwell on the question: "Was she a saint or a bitch?"

As the patron saint of romantic novelists, she may be portrayed through the anecdotes about the squeaking door, which warned her to conceal her work from public eye, and the fact that she found the Prince Regent to be an admirer of her works. This is terrific 1930s Hollywood stuff. (Never mind the fact that she despised the Prince Regent and tried to wriggle out of the duty to dedicate *Emma* to him). Then come those moments where she lets us down, notably in the letters with a plainly bitchy remark, as of the woman who had just had a miscarriage: "I suppose she happened unawares to look at her husband".

Professor Halperin writes to her defence over this little blunder, but in a curiously useless way: "To retain a sense of humour amidst the tragedies and ironies of life counts for much. If it is a defence against them, a way of detaching oneself from them, then so much better for the mental health of the possessor. Even at her most malicious and nasty, Jane Austen is *sane*."

This begs the question as to whether laughing at a woman who has had a miscarriage really betrays a sense of humour. If Jane Austen is to be defended for her bitchiness, perhaps the best line would be to say that she wasn't entirely sane all of the time. She was a bit touched. The disappointments of her life struck deeply. She worried about people producing embryos; and when they lost them she was liable to forget, not deploy, her sense of humour.

One of the actions of her childhood that Professor Halperin mentions strikes me as highly indicative of a disturbed mind. One day, says Halperin, she "playfully forged in her father's parish register, in the entry of Publication of Banns the announcement of a proposed marriage" between herself and a fictional character, and on another occasion she put an entry in the Marriage Register, linking her name to a certain Arthur William Mortimer of Liverpool.

This strikes me as being the kind of joke that has got out of hand. After all, parish registers are official documents, and forgery (though not perhaps playful forgery) was a capital crime. At the same time, the form of the practical joke is unmistakable: it is a very striking way of saying to her father – look at me, I am still neither married nor engaged. Like most practical jokes, it's not funny.

On the other hand, Professor Halperin can overreact to his evidence. When Jane Austen says of two sisters that she was as civil to them as their bad breath would allow, he calls this a Swiftian account. But perhaps the girls did indeed have bad breath; and perhaps it is not so odd to mention this fact to her sister. After all, Professor Halperin says: "Jane Austen was a Georgian, and brought up in the frank atmosphere of the age – an atmosphere which eschewed restrictions on reading or the subject-matter of conversation."

But I don't entirely believe in this frank atmosphere of the Georgian age; just as I don't believe in other things that seem to slip inadvertently from Professor Halperin's pen. Had Bath really been a fashionable place for taking the waters "ever since the Romans discovered its hot spring?" I mean, is "fashionable" the word for "Anglo-Saxon Bath"?

More important, I don't follow all of his literary judgements. Is *Mansfield Park* really Jane Austen's "most unpleasant novel"? Is it true that "almost everyone in it is selfish – self-absorbed, self-indulgent, and vain?" This seems an over-emphatic way of looking at the characters, who are full of nuances. Sometimes I think that Professor Halperin and I have read a different book. Can you really say that Mrs Norris steals from *Mansfield Park*? I know that the green baize finds its way to her house, and that she is in general a tremendous magpie; but isn't she informally part of the same establishment as the Bertrams? Would even Jane Austen say that she was a thief?



My CUP runneth over

Peter Jones

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS 1584-1984
By Michael Black
Cambridge, £12.50

I was once told that Cambridge University Press did not technically "sell" books, but "charitable distributed" them. Cold charity, some may retort; but as servants of the narrow academic market CUP consistently publishes winners. This sort of excellence, like a Rolls, costs. At the school end, CUP's record over the past twenty years has been stupendous.

So this quaterrentenary celebration of the Press's achievements by the University Publisher Michael Black has something indeed to celebrate. There is something pleasingly thematic about the early years. Soon after its inception the Press found itself embroiled with the Stationers' Company in London over the right to print best-sellers like almanacs and the Bible, which alone could subsidize the academic side. At one time the Stationers were paying the Press £500 p.a. *not* to print almanacs (have Messrs Maxwell and Murdoch thought of that one?). That battle was resolved after a mere 200 years, but the problem has not disappeared.

Now this is where things become interesting; but herein lies the problem of this volume. We never see behind the mighty public facade. It is too much an "official history". The Press is always right, always wins, and as for top management (who dominate the book, particularly, for some reason, since 1972) – well, knighthoods all round, surely. But given that the Press is a charity, not taxed, and not allowed to make a profit, what is the nature of its pricing policy? To what extent does it subsidize the severely academic books from the educational range? At all? To what extent does it rely on the US market (a very great deal, I should guess)? Again, the editors themselves, who make the Press what it is, hardly get a mention. Who are the wonderful people who decide the world needs a translation from Latin of the Tudor Statutes of Emmanuel College? What is the terrible secret of the Syndics' meetings? These sorts of issues, which are the really interesting ones to the consumer, are only glanced at. This is a pity because CUP is, after all, a brilliant academic publisher that makes money: and that is supremely interesting.

Blasts from old bellows

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

THE VICTIM
By Saul Bellow
Secker & Warburg, £8.95

Mr SAMMLER'S PLANET
By Saul Bellow
Secker & Warburg, £8.95

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE
By Hilary Bailey
Heinemann, £8.95

"A book which is lacking in power," Saul Bellow wrote, "cannot be moral. Dullness is worse than obscenity. A dull book is wicked. It may intend to be as good as gold, as nice as pie, as sweet as can be, but if it is banal and boring, it is evil."

Bellow himself is never banal and boring. Like his hero Henderson, the Rain King, he believes in the one and only ticket – to intensity. The welcome reissue of his early masterpiece, *The Victim*, along with *Mr Sammler's Planet* celebrates his chosen strengths. The problem of the persecution of the Jews and of their persecution of the Gentiles is the subject of *The Victim*. The hero Leventhal works on a trade magazine throughout a sultry summer in New York: he is followed by a drunken derelict Albee, who accuses Leventhal of stealing his job. Leventhal does not see Albee as his victim, but himself as the victim of Albee's demands for compensation. Gradually, Leventhal is made to feel remorse and responsibility for the other's degradation: he is freed from his guilt only by a final act of violence by Albee.

Bellow shows convincingly that both are victims, both are executioners. He reveals the hidden cord between the torturer and the tortured, the asker and the giver, the new rich and the new poor. In this remarkable short novel, perhaps the most illuminating in all Bellow's work, he puts a scalpel to the unending guilt of the immigrant to America, the unease of the man who inherits the earth at the expense of those who discovered it first. Leventhal had to realize that the Haves depend on the Have Nots. They have taken what the others had. There should be redress.

Mr Sammler is at the end of his tether, but at the beginning of his wonder. An aged survivor of the world's woes, he sees modern Manhattan as an extraordinary planet, an unbrave new world that has such people in it. As he wanders and ruminates in the abysses and enclosures of New York, he keeps on observing a beautiful black pickpocket, who exposes himself to Mr Sammler and is finaly badly beaten by Sammler's son-in-law Eisen. A nephew Gruner who is a doctor dies in hospital, a daughter steals a treatise on the moon by a Hindu philosopher and Mr Sammler gives his views on contemporary and past events and the future of the universe.

The book is not lacking in power, but in direction. It is prolix and indulgent, the musings of the older Bellow on the harshness of existing today. The salt has not lost its savour, the knife has lost its edge. But finally, Mr Sammler proves his creator's dictum about wickedness and evil. Even killing, he notices, was an ancient privilege. In observing criminal acts through the eyes of detachment and kindness, he turns wrong-doing into something rich and strange, the sea-change of describing our urban life that is Bellow's quality and our treasure.

Hilary Bailey has not published for eight years, and now appears in print with a long picaresque saga about postwar Britain, *All the Days of My Life*. Her heroine Mary Waterhouse survives being an evacuee, the teenage widow of the murderer, a racketeer and a gaolbird, to become a county lady and an industrial pioneer of the electric car, funded by the royal family because she is revealed to be of the blood of the throne. Of course, her married name is Moll Flanders, in case we miss her true ancestry. Hilary Bailey has an extraordinary ear for Cockney dialogue and a magic power of evocation. The sleazy world of London in the fifties and the sixties, the spivs and the wide boys, the snoopers and the *nouveaux riches* flaunt themselves through mean streets and high places. *All the Days of My Life* is absorbing and yeasty, a novel that should prove a popular investment for the Arts Coucil grant that encouraged its writing.

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

WINTER'S CRIMES 16
Edited by Hilary Hale
Macmillan, £6.95

Not long ago, commenting on a collection of English short crime stories, this reviewer lamented the enfeebled state of the genre. The latest *Winter's Crimes* heralds no magical recovery, but at least shows the patient far from ready for the last rites. The nine stories, all commissioned for this collection, allow their authors to desert their pre occupations and protagonists with stylish, if dramatically uneven, results. Ellis Peters delightfully forsakes eleventh-century monasteries for an errant piece of nineteenth-century furniture; Simon Brett is at his cleverest mixing thick thugs with pricey portraits; Michael Z. Lewin explores the dangers of becoming a private eye as a tax-fiddle; and there are little chillers from the likes of Lionel Davidson and James McClure. A superior assortment, but one could have done with a few hard centres and not as many raspberry creams.

● Grave Goods, by Jessica Mann *(Macmillan, £6.95)*. The regalia of Charlemagne and the nineteenth-century letters of an unhappy English lady in Prussia are seamlessly woven into a splendidly urgent tale of modern murder and deception. Mann conveys her erudition without boring us for a moment, and her lively and literate Tamara Hoyland is fast becoming crime fiction's most beguiling sleuthess.

● Junk on the Hill, by Jeremy Pikser *(Pluto, £8.95)*. A gumshoe so unsuccessful he has to work in New Jersey caught up in a school-room drugs scene, murder, and the morals of the aimless generation. Convincing, angry descriptions of small-town corruption, parental failure, and the vulnerability of youth. Joe Posner is as slick and acerbic as his big-city colleagues, with an added dash of compassion and political nous.

● The Waste Remains, by Judith Cook *(Pluto, £7.95)*. Suspicious drowning of investigative hack near hush-hush Ministry of Defence land awakens memories of past unexplained deaths. Concerned librarian investigates, with predictable reaction from the cover-uppers. Politically astute, morally interesting, and a sinister Suffolk atmosphere dampened by bland characterization.

Lay on Macbuff con brio

John Higgins

VERDI'S MACBETH
A Sourcebook
Edited by David Rosen and Andrew Porter
Cambridge, £30

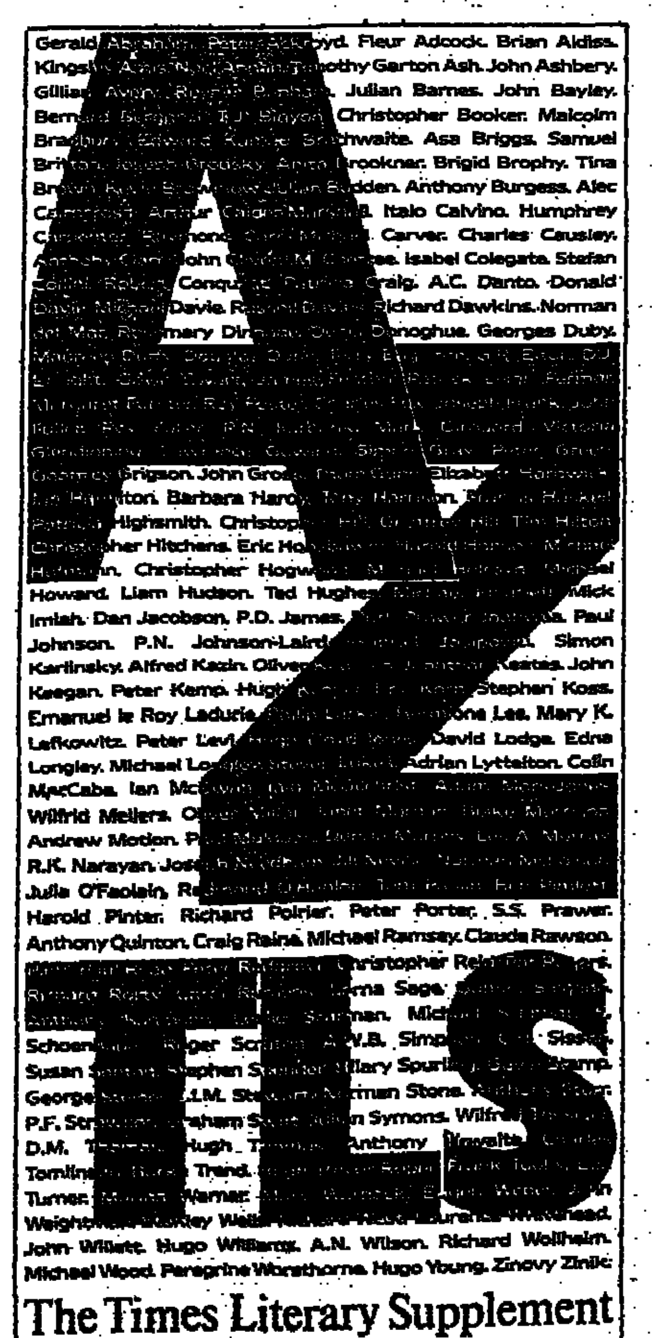
***When shall we know the sweet delight
Of sleeping well for one whole night?***

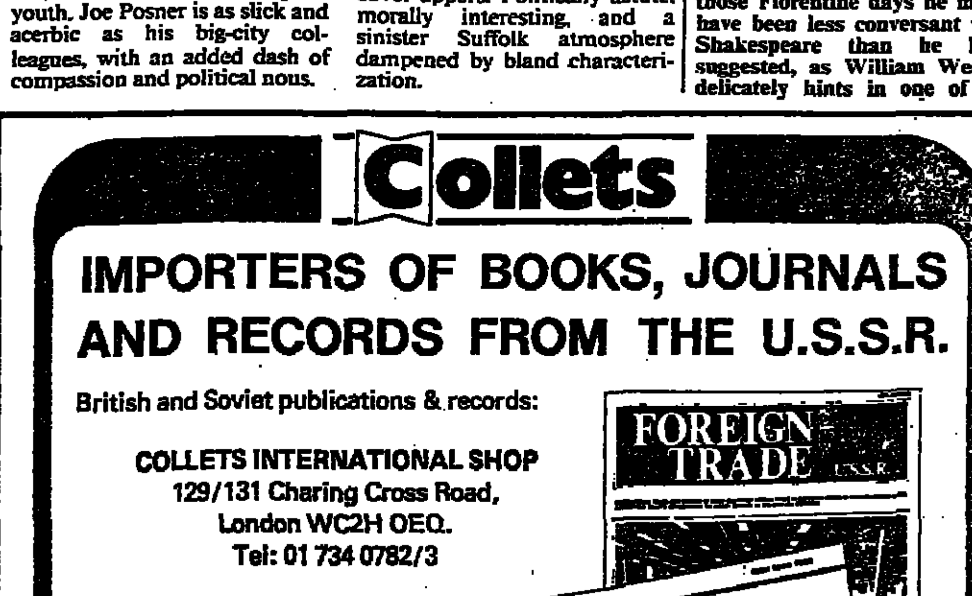
Thus Lady Macbeth in a Norwegian version of Shakespeare's play, which arrived in translation – or a sort of translation – in London's West End in the middle of the last century. For a time it was argued that Verdi had treated Shakespeare in an equally frivolous way when he composed *Macbeth* for a commission from Teatro Pergola in Florence in 1847 and reworked it for Paris almost twenty years later. A chorus of murderers, jolly tunes for the witches, a *brindisi* for Lady Macbeth, a ballet (at least when it came to Paris) ... such were listed among his heresies, especially by those none too familiar with his first opera to a Shakespeare text.

A cloud hung over *Macbeth*. It was not heard in Britain until Glyndebourne, in one of their first ventures of inspired experiment, staged it in 1938.

Just about the only aspect of *Macbeth* not covered in the scholarly assemblage by David Rosen and Andrew Porter of letters, documents, texts and contemporary reviews, as well as papers delivered at a conference on the opera at Danville, Kentucky, is why the glass of fashion has altered.

***Macbeth* was first conceived as an opera in the *genere fantastico* very much in vogue in the 1840s, of which Weber's *Der Freischütz* and Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable* (to be revived by Paris next summer) were the trend-setters. But Verdi used the opera for considerable musical experiment. During those Florentine days he might have been less conversant with Shakespeare than he later suggested, as William Weaver delicately hints in one of the best contributions, but he instinctively went to the heart of the play. And before *Macbeth* there had been only one Italian opera of any stature to a Shakespeare text, Rossini's *Otello*, which was not exactly faithful to the original. *Macbeth* is now established as a masterpiece and the musicologists in Danville, Kentucky, have done their bit to help.**







THE TIMES DIARY

Pentonville penman

Taki, the High Life *Spectator* columnist and cocaine smuggler now languishing in Pentonville prison, has been signed up to tell all by *The Observer*. The Greek millionaire, described last week by that paper as a "rampant snob" who pursues "aristocratic crumpet", is sure to provide some riveting material from the clink, where the Home Office tells me he stands to earn £4 a week sewing teddy bears if he's a good boy, or 50p a week in the steaming laundry. *The Observer*, which should perhaps take Taki's wage packet into account when negotiating his contract, will not restrict readers to details about slopping out. It plans to run a "Cocaine special", with Taki describing his kicks and how he got hooked. When asked if the *Observer's* sports pages would carry the prison diaries of George Best, – in the same prison over Christmas for assaulting a policeman and other offences – I was told: "What a good idea. We hadn't thought of that. But is there any evidence that a footballer can write?"

Going public

1985 will go down as the year public schools were abolished. The politics and publicity sub-committee of the Headmasters' Conference has secretly recommended banning the words "public school" – used, according to the *O.E.D.*, since 1580 – on the ground that it is an "emotive phrase". By this they mean it gives opponents the chance to crack jokes about public really meaning private *ad nauseam*. The conference's main committee is expected to approve the switch to "independent school" next year. The only opposition is likely to come from snobbish prep schools.

Innocent abroad

Mikhail Gorbachov, Soviet leader-in-waiting, displayed a curious sense of priorities yesterday morning. He failed to appear as planned at Highgate cemetery to pay his respects at the tomb of Karl Marx, the founder of modern communism. Instead he and his wife went off on an impromptu sightseeing tour. This took in St Paul's Cathedral, shrine of Christianity, and the Jewel House of the *Tower of London, repository of* the Crown Jewels.

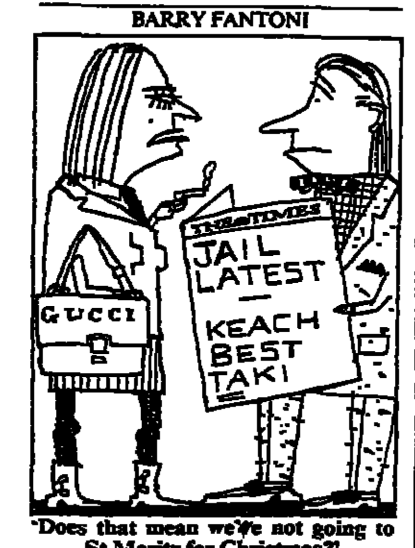
First pick

Who will be the first Labour MP to undergo the reselection process? It looks like being one of the most vocal critics of reselection and an ardent advocate of the "one-member one-vote" system – Roy Hattersley. Since he looks bound to be reselected unopposed at his Birmingham Sparkbrook constituency meeting on February 10, he might be persuaded that the existing process is not so bad after all.

Needled

Curiously, though it numbers forestry workers among its members, the National Union of Agricultural Workers has no Christmas tree in its London head office this year. This may have something to do with last year's fiasco when the union erected an artificial tree. Not a tactful move – especially as a few days earlier the general secretary, Jack Boddy, had presented a real tree to Number Ten as part of a forestry workers' campaign against *the artificial product.*

BARRY FANTONI



'Does that mean we're not going to St Moritz for Christmas?'

What a card!

The Christmas message seems to have been lost on Virgin Airways. Yes, Richard Branson *did* give all *his staff shares in British Telecom.* His Christmas card, however, contains a fake BT share certificate by way of reminder, and on the cover a montage of doctored pictures by Michelangelo and Murillo. The result shows a God-like figure handing a red telephone down from the heavens to the Virgin Mary as she tends the baby Jesus and shouting "It's for Yoou Hooo . . .". "A caring, sharing Virgin," runs the caption.

Early sign

We should have guessed Ted Hughes was running for Poet Laureate. In the past few months the once-retiring poet has been venturing more frequently from his bucolic haven in Devon – even signing books in a Bristol bookshop. There he was pestered by scores of callow youths to inscribe copies of a particular volume to "Danielle". Hughes finally discovered that she was a much-admired post-graduate who had studied the work at the Sorbonne. Moments later she swanned into the bookshop herself.

PHS

Jobs: a blueprint for 1985

In an open letter to Mrs Thatcher, a group of peers, Tory MPs, businessmen and academics outline the policies required to provide jobs for the three million now without them

Dear Prime Minister

After decades of progressive enfeeblement which made us famous for the "British Disease", the five years since you took office have seen a transformation in the climate of economic opinion. It is now recognized that our "full" employment was actually overmanning concealed by monetary debasement. The new realism which has brought inflation down from above 20 to 5 per cent was bound to expose the extent of underemployed labour in the official statistics of the unemployed.

Unlike your critics, we acknowledge that the total of around 3 million ignores the turnover of about 500,000 people changing jobs every month and includes an unknown but larger number working in the black economy. Nevertheless, involuntary unemployment inflicts avoidable suffering on many people and represents a loss of potentially productive resources. Accordingly, we believe our most urgent concern must now be with the obstacles that prevent so many unemployed people finding jobs.

When you and the Chancellor tell critics there is no easy lever to pull, we understand that you are rejecting the old myth that lasting jobs can be created simply by pumping still more public spending into the economy. We agree that would lead only to accelerating inflation and highter interest rates – both of which have damaging effects on jobs. But we believe there are obstacles to employment which you have inherited from past governments and which should now be removed without fear of rekindling inflation.

A major reason for our high level of unemployment is simply that unit labour costs in Britain have run ahead of productivity. In America, 38 million new jobs have been created in the past 20 years by holding the rise in real wages to 8 per cent, whereas in Britain real wages have increased by 48 per cent. Nearer to home, between 1976 and 1982 our labour costs per unit of output rose six times faster than in West Germany. No wonder the USA and West Germany have significantly lower unemployment rates. Yet the Chancellor's recent economic statement warns that UK unit labour costs are expected to grow faster than those of our major competitors. If that is so, we might expect unemployment to rise still higher.

There are a number of reasons why the cost of labour in Britain continues to rise in spite of high unemployment. The first is the trade unions, which restrict efficiency and push wages above the market clearing rate. Short-sighted trade unionism is thus clearly a major cause of unemployment, particularly when national bargaining sets wages without adjustment for differing market conditions (and costs of living) in different parts of the country.

Furthermore, in their insistence that jobs should be preserved whether or not an industry is *profitable or there is a demand for* its product (witness the miners' strike), they raise costs and taxes and so hinder the creation of new jobs in the industries and firms of the future. How would Lancashire cotton have encircled the world in the last century if some rustic Arthur Scargill had been able to preserve the handloom weavers in perpetuity?

We applaud the 1980, 1982, and 1984 Employment Acts, but consider that this legislation should be strengthened in two respects. First, since unions derive most of their power in wage negotiations and strikes from the closed shop, we believe this monopoly device should be outlawed. Secondly, to enable employers to estimate wage costs with some degree of confidence, we now urge that unions be subject, like all responsible bodies, to civil proceedings for damages caused by breach of contract.

High labour costs and unresponsive relative wages are also caused by Britain's 26 wage councils, which set mimimum wages and conditions of work for two and three quarter million workers. They operate to reduce jobs for less productive workers, particularly young people. It is said that the International Labour Organization's Convention 26 binds us to maintain machinery to enforce minimum rates of pay where "wages are exceptionally low", and so rules out their abolition. We disagree, since social security benefits in effect set a floor to wages in the UK. The wage councils should be scrapped immediately.

High labour costs comprise more than wages. A whole spate of legislation such as employment protection, health and safety at work, equal pay all impose obligations and costs on employers and need to be drastically pruned. Moreover, employers' national insurance contributions (NICs), levied at 10.45 per cent on wages between £1,768 and £13,000 a year, are a considerable additional cost. *The Economist* pointed out recently that if the minimum at which NICs are paid were raised to £6,000, it would become 10 per cent cheaper to employ the 40 per cent of British workers with wages below that level. Since *unemployment is* concentrated among such workers, this reform would price many back into jobs.

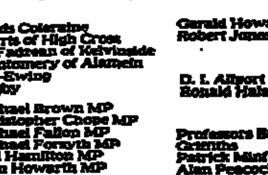
Unemployment is determined not only by labour costs but also by the monetary advantage of working compared with not working. Our tax benefit system now decrees that for many people in low-paid jobs there is no advantage in taking a job. An unemployed person receiving various state benefits who manages to get work at £40 or more a week automatically forfeits all benefits and pays national insurance at 9 per cent and income tax at 30 per cent on all earnings over £39 a week.

A *single householder* living in local authority accommodation would need to earn at least £94 a week to be a mere 10 per cent better off by working, while a man with four children would need to earn £189 to be £20 better off. So it is no wonder that many people deliberately opt for unemployment.

The Chancellor announced in his autumn statement that he might have £1.5 bn for tax cuts financed by radical reform of welfare on a more selective basis. All such savings should be concentrated on raising tax thresholds and perhaps reintroducing the lower-rate tax bands. An urgent priority is to eradicate this poverty trap and improve the rewards for working.

Finally, Prime Minister, it remains true that while parts of the country have very high unemployment, others have relatively little and, indeed, meet difficulties in recruiting some types of labour. To improve labour mobility the Government must speed up sales of council housing, reduce the five-year qualifying period on resale, and take steps to revive the rented sector by freeing *all new lets from rent* control.

We are confident you will maintain and even intensify pres sures for cost reduction through efficiency in the lagging state sector, not least by further denationalization, deregulation and competitive contracting. If the results of your first five years are to bear full fruit in extending employment at realistic *labour costs*, we believe 1985 should see urgent action along all of these lines. The requirement is nothing less than the reversal of well intentioned policies of past protectionism that have now become the chief impediment to more widely shared prosperity.


Lords Coleraine
Harris of High Cross
McFadzean of Kelvinside
Montgomery of Alamein
Orr-Ewing
Rugby

Michael Brown MP
Christopher Chope MP
Michael Fallon MP
Michael Forsyth MP
Neil Hamilton MP
Alan Howarth MP

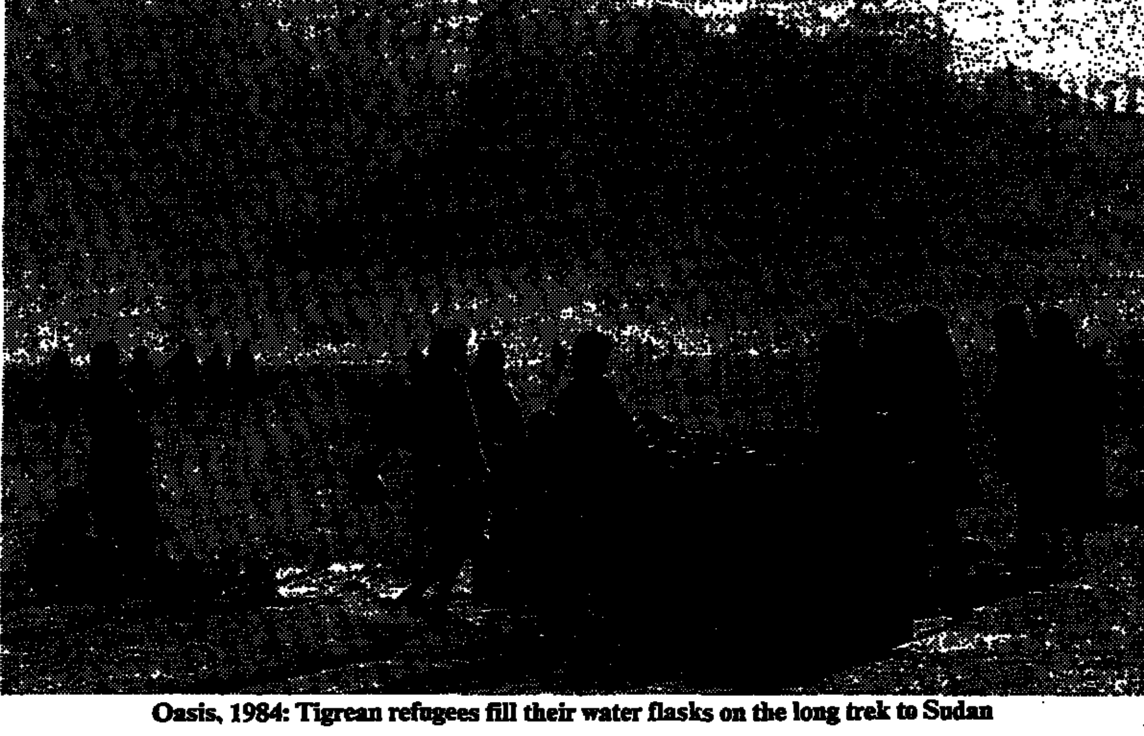
Gerald Howarth MP
Robert Jones MP

D. L. Allport
Ronald Halstead

Professors Brian Griffiths
Patrick Minford
Alan Peacock

Famine: Robert Fisk reveals the flaws in the relief operation

Brian Harris



Oasis, 1984: Tigrean refugees fill their water flasks on the long trek to Sudan

The suffering that can only get worse

Khartoum

The plane had taken off from Khartoum airport only one minute earlier but already the American aid official, staring from the window, was shaking his head. Below him, the Blue Nile slithered into the dawn sun but it was not the river of beauty and history that its name suggests. The water was so low that acres of grey earth spread inwards from its banks. People on the riverbed crouching around fires. Only a few hundred yards on either side lay the desert, not yellow but a dark ochre.

With an estimated 110,000 Chadians crossing its western frontier looking for food, with up to 40,000 refugees moving in from the Ethiopean province of Tigré alone, with near civil war being waged by the Christians in the south of the country and more than 100,000 Sudanese camped in the drifting sands outside Omdurman, living off government food queues, President Nimeiri's regime looks set for a disaster of considerable proportions.

The impending tragedy, is showing up many of the flaws within the international aid system which is intended – under the United Nations Commission for Refugees – to alleviate such suffering even if it cannot prevent it. For example, officials of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which shipped 22,000 tons of grain into Port Sudan last week, are still debating the morality behind their method of food distribution. They want to help the Sudanese and they want to help the Ethiopians. If they ship grain to Sudan which can be given to Ethiopian famine victims, it only encourages more Tigreans and Eritreans to cross their national frontier, placing even further burdens on Sudan. If they pour food into Ethiopia, they are forcing drought victims to stay in a country whose government may not distribute the aid fairly.

USAID has formally refused to send food to the Kassala area where Tigrean drought victims are camped in the desert. Because it believes – correctly – that Sudanese merchants have hoarded grain, it wants the United Nations commission to break the market by buying privately around the town. USAID trucks are thus driving past Tigrean resettlement camps whose inhabitants can only watch impotently as the food is taken elsewhere.

The UN finds itself in an even more confusing situation. Because it can only help people who have left their own country, its workers find themselves feeding Ethiopians or Chadians in Sudan but can do nothing for the hundreds of thousands of Sudanese now on the edge of starvation.

There is thus always a danger that refugees will become a privileged community within their host country, especially when nations such as Sudan still permit drought victims to cross their frontiers. But the UN itself has yet to give a convincing explanation of why it so drastically underestimated the probable famine in the sub-Saharan region.

Peter Cutler, an intense young Englishman from the International Disaster Institute in London who is now working in Kassala, has his own highly critical views of UN assistance. "The UN still thinks it can look at satellite pictures and predict crop failures. That it can call on Third World data systems for information that will tell them a famine is coming. But that doesn't work. These people never get out of their offices and talk to the peasants."

Cutler has taken the trouble to interview hundreds of Tigréan drought victims around Kassala, asking them why they left their homes in Ethiopia, what price their crops or animals were fetching when they decided to set out for Sudan.

At the moment, he says, famine early warning relies on crop forecasting and migrations. But peasants respond even earlier to drought and famine.

"They sell their livestock first and look for extra work while hanging on to their oxen for ploughing," he says. "When they look for work, the price of labour goes down and the price of food rockets. Governments could watch for the spread of famine by observing the pattern of food prices and the distressed sales of assets by small farmers."

The documentary evidence gathered at Kassala suggests there is more than a little truth in this theory, although many of the Tigrean refugees said they had fled their homes after being bombed by Ethiopian jets or caught up in battles between the guerrillas and the army. Within Sudan itself, however, different problems face relief workers

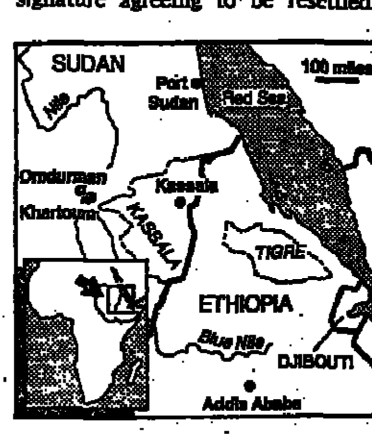
They have found that the government in Khartoum suffers from excessive decentralization and has shifted its responsibilities to the provinces. Local government officials have found themselves unable to comprehend or operate the complex system of relief necessary to help famine victims, which is why no one in Kassala knows how much food is in the town. Cutler has also found that in Khartoum, malnutrition comes under the auspices of the Ministry of Health – because it is regarded as a health problem. "But the Ministry of Health has little connexion with the Sudanese Food Aid National Administration, which is within the Ministry of Finance and Planning."

The results are predictable. While bureaucrats shuffle papers across a city clogged with traffic, another *3,000* refugees come trudging over a frontier 400 miles away and find little help. Sudan *wants* to help – aid workers praise the government's generosity towards its neighbours – but information is not available to put a relief process into motion.

Ignorance is almost as endemic among relief agencies as disease among those they are trying to help. Sudan is rife with rumours of famine in inaccessible areas. The drivers of trucks carrying food south of Port Sudan, for instance, have several times reported being stopped by villagers in the Red Sea hills who were so thirsty that they begged to drink the radiator water.

But in Kassala, no one is available to drive hundreds of miles up the desert highway to check this. Indeed, the town itself is showing the first ominous signs of drought. The rains have failed twice and dry land agriculture is below 50 per cent of its normal yield. Food prices have risen by up to 500 per cent in a year and animal prices are falling. Camels normally sell for 800 Sudanese pounds (£500); now they fetch only 150 pounds. Red sorgum grain that once sold for 40 Sudanese pounds for 100 kilos now sells for 105 Sudanese pounds.

Curiously, international relief organizations in Sudan often seem to have a better grasp of the famine situation in Ethiopia than they do in the country in which they work. Kirsty Wright, a consultant for War on Want, says that most people in the Tigré region of Ethiopia have gone to government feeding centres but were turned away because they did not have identity cards. "One Ethiopian government official said they weren't welcome because they came from guerrilla areas", she said. "Food in Ethiopian government centres is often conditional on a signature agreeing to be resettled.



The refugees I interviewed said it took between three and six hours to reach a government feeding centre and that it took them from 20 to 38 days to walk to Sudan."

According to Miss Wright, in July 2.9 million people lived in Ethiopian areas outside government control, and of these 1.5 million were affected by the drought. This figure has since increased substantially. "Some of them told me they didn't get food because they were not residents of the area where the feeding station had been set up, that they had no papers or that young men turning up for food were sent to the south for conscription. So most of them just turned round and walked all the way to Sudan."

Understandably, perhaps, some relief workers feel considerable sympathy for the guerrilla movements opposed to the Ethiopian government. They have to cooperate with these groups in the distribution of food and medicine, and it is difficult to express much enthusiasm for the present Ethiopian authorities. Even the famine statistics from Tigré recorded by aid workers, it transpires, were largely provided by the Tigré People's Liberation Front.

But in time, this almost palpable resentment of the Ethiopian government may bring a harvest of its own. The guerrilla group are undoubtedly popular but they are also coming to rely *on the aid organizations*. If 250,000 Tigreans leave Ethiopia – or a million or two million, all encouraged by the belief that they will receive help in Sudan – what will happen to the region's culture and language?

Solutions are not easy. Only a few days ago, the UN sent a consultant to Kassala to decide how the 35,000 refugees outside the town might be supplied with water. Should wells be dug in the desert sand to provide a natural source? It took him just a few hours to recommend that water should be conveyed to the refugees in lorries and that they should all be resettled near a canal well outside the town. How many trucks does it need to carry water to 35,000 people whose numbers are increasing by 3,000 a day?

The mathematics were irrelevant, for the consultant had already discovered that if wells were drilled they would exhaust the town's own water table within a few weeks and turn Kassala itself into a desert. To help one group of refugees, another group of refugees would have to be created. So the newcomers would have to go on being hurt.

Ronald Butt

A guilt-edged Christmas

Christmas is not a time when guilt is usually encouraged but this year the middle classes may think that they have been given some reason for feeling guilty. According to opinion on the left they have selfishly frustrated an unexpectedly egalitarian action by Sir Keith Joseph. According to some on the right they have let the gentlemen's side down by unwillingness to shoulder their appropriate share of the national burden.

The Secretary of State for Education and Science had made a gesture in the direction of redistribution. To find money for other purposes, and to alleviate some of the burden on poorer parents who contribute to their children's university living costs, he had decided that the better-off should not only pay more for their offsprings' university living but should also contribute quite heavily to the cost of tuition. The outrage of parents was channelled through a rebellion of Conservative MPs, and Sir Keith retreated.

So socialists who had previously accused him of indifference to students' welfare now found the Tory rebels guilty of throwing undue weight behind a small and well-heeled section of their own supporters while being unwilling to fight the same good fight for pensioner's heating allowances, unemployment and the like. High Tories on the other hand censured the middle-classes for ignoble self-interest. Mr Peregrine Worsthorne wrote with aristocratic disdain in the *Sunday Telegraph* of bourgeois pigs with their snouts in the trough and observed that the middle classes did not know how to behave like officers and gentleman and put the soldiers' interests before their own. They had missed a glorious opportunity to set an example.

The episode as a whole illustrates with the force of parable the quandaries that can arise from attempts to assess ownership, riches and deprivation by some scale of moral justice. But before I offer a comment on that there are one or two points still to be made about the strange case of the parental contributions. The cry of outrage was certainly remarkably loud. It produced a greater volume of letters to *The Times* than any other public question since the Falklands war, and having read about 300 of them I was left quite convinced that although the substantive question was one of money, the fuel of the indignation was the principles at issue. There was a feeling that Sir Keith's plan flouted fairness – a concept which cannot be crudely assessed by the relative prosperity of different income groups.

There was, to start with, the complaint that people were not given due warning. More significantly, the episode raised but left unresolved the question of parents' responsibility for the university education of children old enough to be married and vote, and who are not accountable to their parents for their academic performance.

Still more fundamentally, what is the social justice of a system which assures a full grant to the children of parents whose income is regarded as too low for them to be asked to contribute anything to the cost of university expenses, but leaves the rest to the mercy of parents' decisions about what they can or will pay? If some parents could and would sacrifice a holiday or a new car, many more have no such sacrifice they can make. There are huge disparities (of which the present system takes no account) between the circumstances of different parents who are deemed to have the same residual income for assessing their liability to support their children at university.

One family with (say) £20,000 a year may only have one child, whom they can support easily. Another may have one at university and two at school – perhaps at one of the independent schools which the government is supposed to favour. Are they to decide that family justice obliges them to pay the full university contribution and remove a child from fee-paying school in mid-course? Or are they to refuse the full university contribution and leave the student in difficult circumstances? The truth is that the system requires the student of middle-class parents to be lucky in his parents' circumstances. Besides, should a child of middle-class parents be worse off then one of poorer parents as a result of having to give vacation time to earning which others can spend on academic work?

Yet even if the sense of grievance really was based on points of principle, can it be right for these comparatively well-off people to grouse when there are so many worse off than themselves? Is not redistribution, however painful for some, the essence of social justice? That is a matter worth reflection as we approach the customary Christmas denunciations of the materialistic society which will issue forth from episcopal dwellings where the firelight from the logs on the hearth flickers upon the chintz and the rather expensive antique walnut, and Archdeacon Grantley muses with the bishop over the toasted teacakes about social fairness.

The truth is that we are all in one way or another locked into the positions in which we find ourselves, from the working-class parent who pays an absurd price for the latest electronic toy, to the middle-class parent giving undue thought to a present's usefulness, and the rich businessman making *his Christmas visit to Aspreys.*

Looking at Ethiopia or at the old in need we know that we should give much more than we do, yet it will not do to say that our families shall have nothing but dry bread this Christmas or that we will empty the bank account in a good cause.

We cannot be so unkind as to deny our children all Christmas luxury because the money could be better spent, nor can we jettison our existing standards of living. For one thing, the severity of deprivation is not absolute but depends on the point you start from. For another, the economic repercussions would be incalculable. The records, the home computer or even, I suppose, the bath foam not bought put people out of work.

Which of us is morally equipped to pronounce on how much is too much, except for ourselves as individuals? As a post-war undergraduate 35 years ago I went on holiday with a friend to Spain and saw poverty of a sort quite new to me. I recall saying nobly that if we had any decency we should give our holiday money away and go home. We didn't and I doubt if it would have done much good if we had. The morality of redistribution is, to say the least, an elusive concept.

A. N. Author

Speaking volumes – of blah

After the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, the season of toasts and fruity mellowness. Yes, the publishers' parties are in full swing, and the hallways of the great houses are pocking to the rain of dropping names.

"The other day I Greened the most extraordinary Newby from a fellow at Bainbridge who was just back from the South Powell, etc, etc." The Brookner Prize may have been won and lost these past ten weeks, but the recurrent names are curiously unchanged from last year.

But do glitterati really find the time to read what they claim to have read? I doubt it.

A typical snatch of conversation, with a competitive edge, between two of publishing's Sloanier figures whom we shall christen the Bedford Squares.

First Bedford Square: "*Quite* enjoyed A. N. Other-Author's new one."
Second: "Oh yah. The one about . . ."
First: "That's right."
Second: "Hmmm."
First: "No? Definite advance, I thought, on . . ."
Second: "Sure, but that's not hard." (Now, mark carefully his follow-up) "My difficulties with him are basically thematic. Either he's outgrown the sources of his inspi*ration*, or else he's failing to understand the true conventions of the form he's trying to parody."
First: "Up to a point." (Then, rotating through 90 degrees to greet a fat chairman with a face like a pizza) "Charles, hi."

Bedford Square Number Two moves buoyantly from the fringe to the epicentre, and within 20 seconds has appended himself to a medium-weight fish of the boardroom. After a ritual rubbishing of the Booker in particular, and The Prize in general (a substantial shift from last year's position, when the house had had a good autumn for awards), they move ineluctibly to the new V. S. Author novel (the initials stand for Very Successful), a harrowing exposé of multinational corruption in Namibia. The house has high hopes for it, despite the caveat which is now delivered by the Bedford Square: "My difficulties with him are basically thematic. Either he has outgrown the sources of his inspiration, or else he's failing to understand the true conventions of the form he's trying to parody."

My theory, for what it's worth, is that since no one has properly read any of the books piled up in the front hall, everyone is confident of encountering a like charlatan, and thus the conventions of analysis are clearly understood. Temper wooliness with the appearance of specificity and you cannot go far wrong. Your remarks flatter your opposite number with the assumption that he too knows the work, and the mutual illusion marches along unmolested; opinion upon opinion, gloriously liberated from the trammels of fact, and everyone too steeped in complicity to blow the whistle.

But. At this moment a tall dark stranger joins them. Early forties, full of seriousness; an old Downing man by his scarf; dedicated – never more than at this time of year – to lancing literary hypocrisies.

"I missed what you were saying about the new V. S. Author," he begins. The Bedford Square, by now rum punch-drunk, gladly puts the reord on again. "My difficulty with him is basically a thematic one . . ." And so on.

"Yes," says the stranger, "but do you not think the Windhoek seduction scene is a triumphant evocation of adolescent fantasy?"

Clearly this man is speaking their language. "Oh, certainly," the Bedford roars.

"I'm surprised you say that," says the stranger.

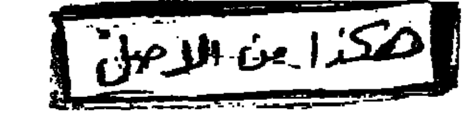
"Why?"

"Because there is no Windhoek seduction scene in this or any other of V. S. Author's novels."

"Ah. Yes. And you are . . . ?"

"V. S. Author."

And off he glides, presumably to do the same to some other unsuspecting O. Piner. So watch your words at this year's party, V. S. Author gets about.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MEANWHILE, BACK HOME

During the meditative hours of flight between Hong Kong and Camp David Mrs Thatcher may find it less than easy to infuse her thoughts with seasonable charity when they turn to what has been happening back home in Parliament. Even before she left London, the victorious Tory backbench revolt on student grants had been followed by a further triumph of disobedience. A Conservative attempt to modify the GLC Abolition Bill by an amendment to replace the condemned body with a directly elected authority of a different sort was only defeated by a niggardly Government majority of just 23. If the Lords now dig their heels in, can the Government avoid some sort of retreat?

Then there is the rising tide of Conservative insistence that the Government should promote employment by spending on investment programmes. Mrs Thatcher assured the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee before she set off round the world that raising tax thresholds was the better way, which is substantially correct. But there was not the slightest evidence that the increasing number of Tory backbenchers who differ from her on the point have had their minds changed by the prospect of Mr Lawson's budget largesse for low earners.

Now in her airborne absence rebellion has erupted again. In standing committee a group of Tories has joined with Labour to block the Civil Aviation Bill because of fears that the power it gives for Ministers to set a rigid limit to the number of flights from Heathrow preempts the decision whether Stansted is to become London's third airport. Even more dramatically, the great weight of vocal Tory opinion has declared itself opposed to Mr Patrick Jenkin's announcement of a freeze on £1 billion of local assets (from council house sales) which the dissidents would like spent on capital investment.

Mrs Thatcher must be echoing the irritated thoughts of countless chief executives through the ages who have been frustrated by Parliament's tendency to get above itself and upset the tidy schemes devised by ministers and their officials. James I made some acid comments with parts of which Mrs Thatcher may be tempted to sympathize. "The House of Commons is a body without a head," he told the Spanish Ambassador. "The members give their opinion in a disorderly manner. At their meetings nothing is heard but cries, shouts and confusion. I am surprised that my ancestors should ever have permitted such an institution to come into existence. I am a stranger and found it when I arrived so that I am obliged to put up with what I cannot get rid of."

Mrs Thatcher would hardly echo the last sentence. She is not a stranger and as every other successful politician must she rose by parliament, a fact which also disposes of any idea that today's parliament is a body without a head. Modern elections and parties provide it with a tidy majority with the chief executive at its apex and James I would probably see some advantages in being a Prime Minister with a parliamentary majority as well as Divine Right to back him.

That system has, however, also produced its critics. With Governments backed by an impregnable body of members who will not risk letting the Opposition take their place, the House of Commons is criticized for being too powerless to alter Government's decisions. Its majority may exercise a little marginal influence and the Government, anticipating its backbenchers' reactions, may offer a softening minor concession or two. But can Government backbenchers do more, and if they cannot do more what does parliamentary influence really amount to when the open jousting between Government and Opposition is little more than political point-scoring?

The last few weeks should have reassured the sceptics about the efficacy of parliamentary representation. Government-supporting MPs have increasingly chosen to act as representatives (but not mandated delegates) of their constituents' best interests as they themselves judge it. They are not willing to act as lobby-fodder and are increasingly inclined to call the bluff of "confidence" which the Government likes to attach to its proposals. They have identified issues where important sections of the public feel strongly and they are the only "opposition" that can get things done.

The effective control of the executive rests with the Government's own majority, backed by the Lords who are more willing to dig their heels in when faced with a Tory government which will not abolish them than with a Labour government which will. The backbenchers are sometimes right and sometimes wrong, but all politics are a dialogue in which the contestants are more influenced by their opponents than they care to admit. In a parliamentary democracy, as Mrs Thatcher must know, her little local difficulties are as healthy as they are inconvenient to her.

VOTE FOR MUHAMMAD, AND THE GENERAL

While international attention has been focused on the general elections to be held in India next week, across the border in Pakistan the country's military dictator, General Zia ul-Haq, yesterday held his own quiet election. It took the form of a "national referendum" and it was both a blatant fraud and a brilliant stroke of genius.

On the surface, yesterday's referendum purportedly sought the people's approval of General Zia's policy of Islamization. The result will not formally be announced until Saturday, but it is a foregone conclusion. Given that the country was created out of India in 1947 specifically as a Muslim state, and that 95 per cent of the population is of that faith, it is inconceivable that even a sizeable minority, let alone an actual majority, would dissent. And therein lies the General's strategy.

Behind the front of Islam the General is in fact sneaking himself past the population. Consequent upon the referendum results, but cleverly not mentioned on the actual ballot paper, is the real question of General Zia's own survival. In his speech earlier this month when he announced the surprise referendum, the General added that he would interpret a "yes" vote as an affirmation of support for himself, and thus consider himself "elected" for the next five years.

Had General Zia frankly and courageously put himself to the test, without the cover of "religion", he would in all probability, have lost. That no doubt was why he did not. Further, not only does this exercise almost guarantee the desired result, but in addition the opposition have been unable to do anything about it.

Now it seems that the only possible remaining opposition hope is that the turnout yesterday eventually proves to have been minimal. If so, General Zia will be forced to disguise it if only to maintain face. His problem will be that hundreds of junior officials in his seven-year-old military regime will be aware of the evidence he is hiding and thus wary of the regime they are supporting. Up till now, there is no reason to believe that there has been a low turn-out or that the army is awaiting evidence to turn against the General.

To understand the dilemma General Zia has placed the Opposition in, one needs to look at the carefully calculated manner in which he has sought to legitimize his dictatorship. From the outset of his rule he chose to link his regime with the revival of religion. He claims that Pakistan has its Islamic foundation and that he plans to recreate the state in line with Islamic principles. But what he has really done, through his policy of Islamization, is to try to establish a direct route of appeal to the Muslim population. The General knows that religion is a powerful force in Pakistan and that as the ruler who has given Islam its rightful place he could gain a lasting advantage. In March he plans to capitalize on it; he intends to hold what he calls Islamic elections for the National and Provincial Assemblies. Precisely what shape these will take is still uncertian but it is already clear that under the guise of Islam, General Zia has outlawed the political parties from contesting again. Dictatorship sustained by religious beliefs in this way is not healthy for democracy, and, in the long term, does the religion little good either.

SUCCOUR THE CHILDREN

Still they come, by thousands and tens of thousands, out of the parched former farmlands and across the mountains to settlements where relief services almost overwhelmed by the scale of the emergency can offer only fragmentary help. As our own reports from Sudan confirm, the famine which for the sake of a name we label Ethiopian is a crisis which affects Ethiopia's neighbours and in varying degree a score or more countries on the fringes of the Sahara. No aid, however quick or efficient, can at this stage do more than mitigate a catastrophe which has already happened: and the evidence is all too strong that the aid is not always either quick, efficient, or honestly administered.

There is a temptation in these circumstances to retreat into a numb helplessness or cynical wrangles about who shares how much of the blame. The scale of the response in Britain and other wealthier countries shows that defeatism has not yet gained much hold – though paradoxically this may be partly because films of the suffering only came out a few weeks ago to give it substance in the public imagination. But in much of Africa, this is the second or third season in which the rains have failed. A third of the continent is more or less affected by drought, and the prospect is for many more seasons of appeals for help, some as desperate as the present one or even more so. A continuous clamour of appeal is at risk eventually of inducing numbness, bolstered by a complacent recollection that Malthus predicted that something of this kind would be inevitable in the end.

A welcome reinforcement to optimism was given yesterday by the latest annual report of UNICEF, the United Nations children's fund. In a year when nearly five million children have died of malnutrition and disease in Africa alone, it still finds reason for hope. Rejecting the high-technology high-prestige approach which gave such satisfaction both to donor and recipient governments in the past, while often inaccessible to most of those in need, it emphasizes the possibilities – and the achievements – of simple and cheap measures in which parents and local communities can themselves take the main role. This change in attitudes is one of the most valuable developments of recent years: in Tanzania, for instance, where one central hospital absorbed no less than 14 per cent of the nation's entire drugs budget, the World Health Organisation and Danish agencies recently proposed a new generic drugs programme which has made drugs more widely available while halving drug import costs.

In a real famine, where even the fertile soil may have been carried away by wind or flood, the opportunities for self-help are relatively slight. But most of the deaths, and most of the malnutrition (which can have life-long stunting effects) occur in conditions of privation short of famine, where hardship and disease gradually debilitate the body to the point of exhaustion. Simple provision of water with salts and sugar, says Unicef, can strengthen resistance dramatically: it claims that half-a-million children's lives have been saved this year by this means alone. Other basic measures of immunization and health education have been shown to have almost as great an effect.

But what profit, moans the ghost of Malthus, in saving children's lives if the land cannot support them, let alone their progeny? It is true that the Ethiopian tragedy is in part a result of rising population (as the Mengistu government reported in the 1970s). Africa as a whole, the poorest continent, is the only one which has not yet experienced a slowing-down in its rate of population growth. The tragedy is a cycle: there many children die, parents have many children; where they survive, smaller families come into favour. The Unicef report cites cases where family planning campaigns aroused little interest until health programmes of the type described were introduced and seen to bear fruits: then family sizes began to fall markedly.

Simple measures of this kind gain trust and are promulgated without need for the hard sell, for they arouse no strong cultural resistance. Effective help is not, and should not be a matter of forcing alien practices on reluctant populations. With tact and attention to real needs rather than to blind adherence to ideologies, the report shows that there is ample and growing scope for helping people in the poorer parts of the world to help themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hope for healthy Christmastide

From Dr A. A. McLeod

Sir, The latest round of cuts, forced on us by under-funding of the health service, has just closed one of our wards where we care for and investigate cardiac patients. The closure is "for Christmas", but the real reason is under-funding – under-funding of this hospital, this health district, this health region, and this nation in general.

It is not putting it too strongly to say that patients may die as a result of our being unable to admit them for diagnostic tests that might indicate the need for urgent cardiac surgery. I believe that illness takes no account of public holidays and is unconcerned with time of day. Over the years we have come to put up with impaired health services at such times, but an 11-day run-up to the Nativity celebration is scarcely bearable.

Our unit clinician has enforced these closures, but it is not he who is to blame; nor the district health authority officers who instructed him; nor yet the regional health authority who budget us so inadequately; ultimately it is the Minister of Health and beyond him the Prime Minister and her Government who stand responsible.

This letter should not be interpreted, as I know it may be by some, as a special plea for cardiac patients. All my consultant colleagues are facing the same difficulties, and their patients are suffering too. We are told that the health service costs about £15,000 million a year to run: at £300 a year per head that seems like cheap health insurance to me.

Sir, I hope you will publish this letter because those who work in the health service generally carry on despite the increasing weight of minor adversities – I did not write to you when I had to perform a pacemaker operation wearing a nurse's operating theatre dress instead of a surgical suit because of our occasionally inadequate sterile supplies – but the last straw seems to have fallen today.

May I wish all your readers the good fortune not to be ill this Christmas. Though some of my patients will eat well-cooked turkey on the 25th, I am afraid they are getting a raw deal today.

Yours etc,

ANDREW McLEOD (Consultant Cardiologist,
King's College and Dulwich Hospitals),
Camberwell Health Authority,
King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill, SE5.
December 14.

Stansted report

From Mr S. H. Cooke

Sir, Yesterday I tried to obtain a copy of the inspector's report on Stansted airport. I was told that it was not available at the Stationery Office. The man behind the counter did not know why. I sent an assistant to the Department of the Environment in Marsham Street but they had no copies. A further journey to the Department of the Environment offices in Kensington High Street revealed it was out of print.

I asked for assistance by telephone and was informed that the first printing had been such a small run that HMSO did not want to handle it. I was told that the next printing would be at some unspecified date, that the price was unknown but that they would telephone me.

As I live in an area whose peace and tranquillity may be shattered not necessarily by aircraft noise but by the hundreds of thousands of people wanting to live as near to their work as possible, I began to wonder whether the powers that be have already decided to go ahead with Stansted and to save money by not printing an adequate number of copies of the report. Is the promised debate in Parliament to be a mere charade?

Yours truly,

S. H. COOKE,
10 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
December 14.

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, After studying your leading article, "Stansted can wait" (December 11), and the excellent points put forward I wondered if I might isolate one in the hope that this particular assumption might be worth further consideration. This was "The lost second runway at Gatwick must be counted as a mistake now past retrieving".

I noted with approval the word "mistake". But surely we cannot live for ever with mistakes when these can be rectified. Too many planners' mistakes are with us today. There must be every reason for changing them when circumstances are altered.

In the House on May 23 last I was told in answer to a Question that "the present Government were not consulted about the agreement and are not parties to it. That being the case the Government cannot be bound by its terms." The agreement, of course, was that entered into by the British Airports Authority with the West Sussex County Council.

Sir, in conclusion, might I put forward an assumption of my own. If the air traffic movements suggested after Terminal 4 comes into operaton at Heathrow were increased to what is regarded as the more realistic figure of 330,000 (instead of 275,000) and we had a second runway at Gatwick there would be no necessity for any extensive development of Stansted airport.

Yours faithfully,

BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords.
December 12.

Great past, but a doubtful future

From Mr Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh

Sir, Kedleston (report, December 15) seems to provide as good an example as any of the destructive effects of capital transfer tax.

Such places are often referred to as part of the national heritage. True, the nation is fortunate to have within its shores such beautiful objects of admiration and would be the poorer without them. But the nation had no part whatever in their creation and subsequent maintenance.

But the nation had no part whatever in their creation and subsequent maintenance.

Kedleston, with its park, would never have existed had it not been for the taste and enterprise of the Curzon family who commissioned it in the first place and maintained it for over two centuries. Were it not for CTT they could no doubt continue to do so.

Let us consider the effect were CTT to be abolished in respect of private houses now. I imagine the percentage of the national revenue derived from this source to be very small and that it could without difficulty be made up by more equitable means. The natural heirs of the families who created such places as Kedleston would thus be enabled to continue to maintain the houses and parks and to keep intact their carefully gathered contents.

These places were built, not only to be lived in, but to be seen and give pleasure to the beholder. Most owners have in the past been generous in admitting the public to their private houses, upon request or in aid of charity, though under no obligation to do so. And now, when Government help is obtained, this is sometimes conditional on the public being admitted.

It seems to me that in the case of private houses CTT serves no purpose, save to destroy a precious legacy from the past, and one may therefore be forgiven for sensing here an element of vindictiveness, since there seems to be no other explanation.

Yours faithfully,

PETER FLEETWOOD-HESKETH,
As from: 57 Great Ormond Street,
WC1.
December 16.

Conditional aid

From Mr Hugh P. Elliott

Sir, The latest news of the famine in Africa prompts another look at your editorial of November 27.

By all means let us have more and better evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of all overseas aid. But the ODA (Overseas Development Administration) have done much more of this in recent years than you give them credit for; and the chief remaining area where they might be questioned lies in the big trade schemes, where aid is tied to British manufactures. These are not cut because the result would be job losses in Britain.

The point is that after the recent cuts which your editorial appears to justify, there is simply not enough money left to get the most cost-effective schemes going. These include, first, disaster relief, which in large areas of Africa is the pre-condition of all other forms of aid.

There are certain countries where the regime would not be willing to accept the strict conditions necessary. But it is not realised that in many lands in the drought areas the situation is now so desperate that the rulers are ready to accept aid with whatever supervision and controls we insist on.

In the particular emergency of the Ethiopia/Sudan crisis, the case is surely overwhelming for an international diaster relief force (as urged by Lord Cameron and Hugh Hanning, November 1).

Naturally the Dergue is not going to feed the people of the rebel-held areas in Eritrea and Tigray. Hence the refugees. But the hungry on both sides deserve equal help.

But, secondly, for the prevention of future disasters, the most cost-effective aid of all is the long-term task of agricultural development – the provision of seeds, wells, dams and the training of field staff (letters of November 17 *et al*). Food production has become the top priority.

In my recent travels in Africa, I have been struck by the eagerness almost everywhere to welcome *British* aid.

This is a time of opportunity for Britain. If our leaders would dare to appeal not to self-interest, but would boldly ask the income tax-paying British public to make a small sacrifice in order to restore cuts and maintain adequate aid for disaster relief and agricultural development the response from most would be surprisingly generous.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH P. ELLIOTT,
14 Eldon Avenue,
Shirley,
Croydon,
Surrey.
December 18.

Student grants

From Dr I. B. Davies

Sir, I share Lord Flowers's view (December 11) that the storm over student grants drew out the worst in everyone; it is now time for collection of facts and disappearance of rhetoric.

The attention of all those interested in higher education should be directed towards a recent study which showed that the average debt incurred up to qualification by an American medical student was $22,900 (Moss, *New England Journal of Medicine*, November 22, vol 311, p 1375).

If the pattern of higher education in Great Britain should become like that in America then it would become necessary to review the ability of British students to repay loans in the face of their higher cost of living, higher taxation and lower salaries; for medical students consideration would need to be given to the difficulty in obtaining National Health Service employment beyond the registrar/senior registrar grade!

Perhaps the affray over student grants will alert the Government to a potential further dilemma in higher educational policy if there is truth in the rumour that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering a levy of value-added tax upon books and journals.

If value-added tax should be imposed on books and journals, then the already heavy financial burden upon individual students, members of the professions, learned societies and libraries would be made even heavier.

I. BLEDDYN DAVIES,
Charterhouse Clinical Research Unit Limited,
Boundary House,
91-93 Charterhouse Street, EC1.
December 12.

US views on Cyprus

From Mr Richard N. Haass

Sir, We were surprised at the pessimistic tone of your paper's November 27 leader, entitled "More discreet proximity on Cyprus". But we were shocked that a publication as reputable as *The Times* would repeat and seem to endorse the totally false charge that United States Government funds were being used to help build an airfield in northern Cyprus.

This allegation is simply not true. The United States is not building an airfield or anything else at Lefkonico in northern Cyprus. The United States is not financing the Lefkonico airport, either directly or indirectly. The United States military has no plans for, nor has it given any consideration to, the possible use of a facility at Lefkonico or anywhere else in northern Cyprus.

In your general assessment of Cyprus diplomacy the editorial seemed too ready to accept that current efforts must fail. We believe the Cyprus problem can be solved and that the efforts of the last several months by the UN Secretary General have been energetic and well conceived.

Indeed, we trust that you will reassess the prospects for Cyprus given the announcement on December 12 that the Secretary General has succeeded in arranging a summit meeting for January 17 between President Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktash. While much remains to be done, we welcome this important step and pledge our continuing full support to the Secretary General's efforts to promote a fair and final settlement to the Cyprus question.

The roots of the Cyprus conflict are complex and deeply emotive. Therefore, we regret that you chose to give credence to the false report of alleged US plans for the Lefkonico airport. Such rumors can only divide further the people of Cyprus and hinder efforts at reconciliation on the island.

We hope that in printing this response your paper will help to calm groundless fears and thus help make possible a successful summit meeting on January 17.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD N. HAASS,
(Special Cyprus Coordinator),
United States Department of State,
Washington, DC, 20520.
December 17.

Dropping the pilots

From Commander J. M. Cooley, RNR

Sir, Your article by Stephen Aris (December 7) concerning pilotage comments justly on the need for change and rationalisation, yet in itself irrationally compares like with unlike and is highly selective in its example.

How can Peterhead, a three-mile pilotage with small or modest ships, be fairly compared with Southampton, some 25 miles, where the largest ships are handled?

Most pilots are indeed self-employed, which enables them to give advice without being under pressure from either port authorities or owners cutting their costs and safety margins to the bone. Yet even whilst bound by by-law and working rule more than many an employee, the pilots are still like all self-employed in that a decline in a port's trade may reduce their income or remove it altogether, as has happened at Preston and Manchester. Even a dock strike can reduce one to labouring on a farm to supplement income.

With regard to change, my station has reduced its numbers by two thirds over the last 10 years and would consider itself lucky to reach three-quarters of the agreed earnings of that of a third officer on a cross-Channel ferry.

The reaction of the General Council of British Shipping is to tear up the agreement on earnings that has been in force for 27 years in the hope of paring their costs still further. This follows the national agreement on earnings, which was never implemented: apparently another legally unenforceable agreement.

Perhaps one could question the necessity for pilots, but increasing interference or disregard for pilots' advice has cost millions of pounds in some accidents even without mentioning potential disasters, such as the HMS Jupiter court martial exemplified.

If it is high time that the pilotage profession is reorganised. It is also high time that a dedicated and highly skilled body of men, whose high death rate indicates the stress involved, are fairly treated.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. COOLEY,
23 Ridgeway Avenue,
Gravesend,
Kent.
December 9.

Doubts about an 80mph limit

From the Reverend Michael Smith

Sir, I find it incredible that responsible associations should want to promote the idea of an 80mph speed limit on our motorways (*The Times*, December 15).

The argument seems to be that the law should reflect reality and that the present limit is very widely ignored. Whether this is right or not depends on which area of reality one considers.

One area worth considering is that there are three sorts of drivers – those who keep within the law; those who will drive at 100mph no matter what the law says; and those who feel that if they go just a little beyond the bounds of the law, then that is not at all serious.

This latter group currently see nothing wrong with going 10mph above the current speed limit and drive at 80mph. A change in the law would almost certainly see many of them doing just the same with the new speed limit and driving at 90mph.

Any regular user of motorways can relate how all sorts of vehicles drive far too close to the car in front. The British M-way driver is notorious for this. The proposed change, while sensible considered out of context, is irresponsible and dangerous against the appalling failure to maintain correct driving discipline on our motorways at present.

And I suppose, if it goes through Parliament, there will be people saying in not so many years' time that, since most people ignore the 80mph limit, it should be raised to 90mph. Where will it all end? Probably in the local hospital casualty department.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SMITH,
30 Grove Vale,
East Dulwich, SE22.

Flying wheels

From Professor D. A. Bell

Sir, I cannot agree with the Government that the loss of wheels from commercial vehicles is unimportant (report, December 13, p3).

Some years ago when driving down the M6 I noticed out of my window what appeared like a child's hoop hanging motionless over the central reservation. Fortunately I remembered the navigator's rule that "if the angle stays constant there will be a collision", so I braked and the cast steel locking rim from a lorry wheel landed on my front bumper.

Had it come through the window, which it was originally approaching, the result would have been much the same as that of a lump of concrete dropped from a bridge through the windscreen. We need to know what happens to wheels that come off commercial vehicles before we can dismiss the occurrence as unimportant.

Yours faithfully,

D. A. BELL,
87 East End, Walkington,
Beverley,
North Humberside.
December 13.

Christmas spirit?

From Mr Ian Smart

Sir, In all compassion, it is hard to resist the pleas for Band Aid's "disc for Ethiopia" to be free of VAT. In all reason, it is hard to contradict the Prime Minister's judgement that an exemption from the law in this single case would be unfair. Ostensibly, the circle is not for squaring.

In reality, a simple solution is available. VAT must be paid, handed over to the Customs and Excise and retained. But let the Government, as a separate operation, buy at the commercial price (including VAT) additional copies of the record equivalent to 15 per cent of the number sold otherwise. Without making any VAT exception, the overall financial effect would then be exactly neutral.

The Exchequer would have the same revenue as if the disc had never been recorded. The record company would have the same income to devote to Ethiopia as if the Government had never intervened on either side of the account. As to the additional discs, they might appropriately be given to the British Council for free distribution overseas.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

IAN SMART,
3 Grosvenor Avenue,
Richmond,
Surrey.
December 15.

Advertising on BBC

From Mr Eric W. Lowden

Sir, The BBC already devotes many minutes every week to advertisements for its own programmes and publications. I see no objection to replacing these puffs with revenue earning material.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC LOWDEN,
42 Burke's Road,
Beaconsfield,
Buckinghamshire.
December 14.

Dressing down

From the Reverend David Reindorp

Sir, On the day when we remember Samuel Johnson and his individual sense of dress, Sir Roy Strong (book review, December 13) does less than justice to the clergy. Shabby-genteel we may be, unkempt, uncombed and at times patched and ragged, holy in the sense that this morning I was with a fellow clergyman who had holes in his shoes; but dowdy . . . never!

Yours faithfully,

DAVID REINDORP,
19 Hurrell Road,
Cambridge.
December 13.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 19: His Excellency Mr Salman Abdul Wahab Al Sabbagh was received in audience by The Queen this morning and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the State of Bahrain to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr Faud Darwish (First Secretary), Mr Abdul Elah Al Kooheji (Second Secretary), Mr Abdulla Al Shaalan (Second Secretary) and Mr Mohamed Sharif (Administrative Attaché).

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by The Queen was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Sir Alan Urwick was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands on his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Cairo.

Lady Urwick had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.30 pm.

There were present: the Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone (Lord Chancellor), the Viscount Whitelaw (Lord President), the Lord Denham (Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms), the Right Hon Leon Brittan, MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department), the Right Hon George Younger, MP (Secretary of State for Scotland), the Right Hon Timothy Raison, MP (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Minister for Overseas Development), the Right Hon John Wakeham, MP (Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury) and the Right Hon Adam Butler, MP (Minister of State, Ministry of Defence).

The hon Sir David Croom-Johnson and the Hon Sir Anthony Lloyd (Lord Justices of Appeal) were sworn in Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Viscount Whitelaw had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this morning presented the *Woman's Own* Children of Courage Awards in Westminster Abbey, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Dean (the Very Reverend Edward Carpenter).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this evening attended Carols for Save the Children at the Royal Albert Hall.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the President, the Royal Albert Hall (Sir Kirby Laing) and the Chairman of the Fund (Mr Giles Witherington).

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Eric Penn (Extra Equerry to Her Majesty) at the Memorial Service for Major the Hon Sir Francis Legh (Equerry to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother) which was held in the Guards Chapel today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Brian McGrath.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Major John Griffin at the Memorial Service for Major the Hon Sir Francis Legh which was held in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 19: The Prince and Princess of Wales, Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, this morning visited old age pensioners in the Manor of Kennington.

Mr John Higgs was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 19: Princess Alexandra was present this afternoon at a Children's Christmas Tea Party at Toynbee Hall, London E1.

Miss Mona Mitchell was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Infantry, later received Major General B. M. Lane, Colonel of the Regiment, Commanding Officers Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Deverell (3rd Battalion) and Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Williams (1st Battalion) and, Commanding Officer designate, Major J. K. Marsham (Light Division Depot, Shrewsbury).

Princess Anne, Patron of the Home Farm Trust, will attend a charity evening at the London Palladium on February 17.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a court meeting and luncheon of Masons' Company at Mercers Hall on January 8.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a luncheon at Guildhall to be held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of *The Standard* Dram Awards ceremony on January 29.

Princess Alexandra, President of World Wildlife Fund (United Kingdom), will be present at a dinner, in aid of the WWF/Prestige Hotels "Save the British Oak" campaign, at the Inn on the Park Hotel on January 29.

A memorial service for Lord Howard of Henderskelfe will be held in York Minster at noon today.

Birthdays today

Miss Jenny Agutter, 32; Mr Paul Brickhill, 68; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 77; Mr Charles Denton, 47; Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP, 58; Sir Clifford Naunton Morgan, 83; Viscount Sandon, 62; Miss Rachel Trickett, 61; Sir Dick White, 78; Mr John Whitney, 54.

Portrait of a dancer: Dame Alicia Markova, co-founder of the London Festival Ballet, with a portrait of herself by the Hungarian artist Zsuzsi Roboz which she unveiled at the Festival Hall yesterday. It will be on permanent display on the South Bank (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. G. Preston and the Hon Caroline Cecil
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Simon Preston, of Lowfield Farm, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Caroline Anne, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Rockley, of Lytchett Heath, Poole, Dorset.

Mr S. E. Alban and Miss E. L. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between Simon eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. B. Alban, of Sedbergh, Cumbria, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A. D. Jenkins, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr D. W. Armstrong and Miss S. M. Ogle
The engagement is announced between Digby William, son of Brigadier and Mrs W. J. Armstrong, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Suzanne Marie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. M. Ogle, of Mijas, Malaga, Spain.

Mr N. Carden and Miss J. Craughwell
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr N. J. Carden, of Little Neston, Cheshire, and the late Mrs J. T. Carden, and Jill, elder daughter of Mr N. F. Craughwell and of Mrs P. N. Craughwell, of Hammersmith, London.

Mr A. T. Fairbairn and Miss M. J. Bull
The engagement is announced between Andrew Trevor, only son of Mr and Mrs D. J. Fairbairn, of Overthorpe, Banbury, Oxfordshire, and Marilyn Jean, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. J. Bull, of Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Mr M. W. J. Reynolds and Miss J. S. Blackwell
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Reynolds, of Beamond End, Buckinghamshire, and Jemima, daughter of Colonel and Mrs John Blackwell, of HQ AFCENT, BFPO 28 and Cobham, Surrey.

Captain R. W. H. Sutcliffe and Miss J. Wheeler-Bennett
The engagement is announced between Robert Sutcliffe, 14th/20th King's Hussars, elder son of Colonel and Mrs P. M. B. Sutcliffe, of Burntwood, Winchester, Hampshire, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. Wheeler-Bennett, of The Mill House, Calstone Wellington, Wiltshire.

Mr J. P. Kirkness and Miss R. J. Selway
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of the late Mr and Mrs D. Kirkness, of Chilham, Kent, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs C. Selway, of Harlow, Essex.

Mr D. C. Pearson and Miss J. E. Treays
The forthcoming marriage is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs G. Pearson, of Saltdean, Sussex, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Treays, of Millbrook, Cornwall.

Mr V. R. Sewell and Miss H. M. Billyard
The engagement is announced between Vernon, only son of Mrs D. C. Sewell, of Erith, Kent, and Heather, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. T. Billyard, of Little Leigh, Cheshire, and St Paul, Minnesota, United States.

Mr J. H. Stephen and Miss C. J. Sims
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs W. S. Stephen, of Hagley, Worcestershire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mrs M. Sims and the late Mr W. J. Sims, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr C. W. N. Tapp and Miss A. E. Twyman
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mrs Patricia Tapp and the late Mr Norman Tapp, QC, of Leigh, Kent, and Annette, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Derek Twyman, of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Professor B. B. Argent and Miss A. I. Courtenay
The marriage took place in Sheffield on Saturday, December 15, 1984 between Professor Bernard Argent and Miss Anne Courtenay.

Mr H. Rothberger and Miss S. Matheson
The marriage took place in Oxford on Monday, December 10, between Mr Hermon Rothberger, son of Vivian Rothberger and the late Louis Rothberger, and Miss Sarah Matheson, younger daughter of John and Pamela Matheson.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs John Hayter was christened Charles Edward by the Rev W. M. Atkins at St George's, Hanover Square, on Sunday, December 16. The godparents are Mr Ralph Rokeby-Johnson, Mr Michael Davison, Mr Charles Whitbread, Mrs Susan Perry, and Miss Tatiana Harrison.

Latest appointments

Wildlife advisor for farmers

Miss Rachel Teley, a farmer's daughter from Truro, has been appointed Nottinghamshire's first conservation and wildlife adviser, backed by the Countryside Comission, the Farming and Wildlife Trust, and the county's farmers.

Miss Teley, who is 27, will be based at the Nottinghamshire Agricultural College near Southwell. She will be advising farmers on the conservation of wildlife and the care of hedgerows, trees and ponds.

Other appointments include:

Sir Brian Kellett to be chairman of the Port of London Authority from January 7 in succession to Mr Victor Page.

Dr Donald Lane, consultant physician at the Osler Chest Unit, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, to be chairman of the Asthma Society and Friends of the Asthma Research Council.

Mr I. S. Winchester to take over from January 2 the responsibilities of Mr S. J. Barrett as Assistant Under-Secretary of State (director of communications and technical services) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Chief Superintendent D. F. Dovaston, with the city division of Merseyside police, to be Assistant Chief Constable of Derbyshire in succession to Mr Tony Leonard.

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for Dorset: Colonel Sir Joseph Weld, Miss J M Blagood, R G Earle, Brig C H Robertson, W J Weld, Lt-Col J T A Wilson and Lt G E S Woodhouse.

Legal

Mr Derek Holden to be a circuit judge on the South-eastern Circuit.

Middle Temple

Mr John Mills, QC, has been elected Treasurer of the Middle Temple for 1985 and Sir John Donaldson Deputy Treasurer.

Lincoln's Inn awards

The following Lincoln's Inn scholarships and prizes have been awarded:

Upjohn Award: M F Butterworth (Coventry [Lanchester] Polytechnic).

Pre-Pupillage Bursaries: R B Frieze (Leeds University), S D McIlwain (Warwick University), D Walden-Smith (Girton College, Cambridge) and B Singh (Ealing College of Higher Education).

Sir Thomas More Bursaries: P D Stinchcombe (Trinity College, Cambridge) and Mrs J A Ledgard (Manchester Polytechnic).

Makers of Playing Cards Company Bursary: P J Sales (Churchill College, Cambridge).

Hardwicke Entrance Scholarships, Michaelmas Term 1984: N G C Cusworth (Christ Church, Oxford), A J de Garr Robinson (University College, Oxford), A W B Edis (Trinity College, Oxford), M Elliot (King's College, London), Miss J R Goyder (Jesus College, Cambridge), Miss P J Gulleford (Kingston Polytechnic), R Singh (Trinity College, Cambridge) and P I Thomas (Bedford College, London).

Bennett Prize 1984: W A L Cohen (Nottingham University) and J A McGhee (University College, Oxford).

Denning Prize 1984: A Gourgey (Bristol University).

Megarry Prize 1984: Miss C J Bryant (Girton College, Cambridge).

Lincoln's Inn Student of the Year 1984: A Gourgey (Bristol University).

Memorial service

Major the Hon Sir Francis Legh

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Eric Penn at a memorial service for Major the Hon Sir Francis Legh held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, yesterday.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Brian McGrath and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by Major John Griffin. The Rev J. Neville Thomas officiated and Captain Oliver Dawnay and Mr Nicholas Legh, son, read the lessons. Others present included:

The Hon Simon and Mrs Weinstock (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Nicholas Legh (daughter-in-law), the Hon Lady Richmond Brown, the Hon Richard and Mrs Legh, the Hon David Legh, Mrs Derek Lawson, Mrs Norman Colville, Mr and Mrs Alfred Shaughnessy, the Hon Basil Kenworthy, Miss Margaretta McVarish.

Earl and Countess Lloyd George of Dwyfor, the Earl of Lindsey and Abingdon, the Earl of Selborne, the Dowager Viscountess Hambleden, Lady Adam Gordon, Lady Weinstock, Lord Napier and Ettrick, Lord Shaughnessy, Lady Juliet Townsend, the Hon Mrs John Wills, the Hon Mrs Dawnay, the Hon David and Mrs Nall-Cain, the Hon Roger Frankland (Swinley Forest Golf Club), the Hon Dominic Elliot, the Hon Mrs Lacroix, Sir Ralph Anstruther, Sir Guy Fison, Sir Richard Rasch, Major-General Sir Allan Adair, Sir John Wiggin, Sir Charles and Lady Frederick, Sir Charles and Lady Graham, Sir Seymour Egerton, Lady Bromet, Sir Ralph Southward, General Sir David Fraser, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat.

Sir Walter and Lady Bromley-Davenport, Sir Mark and Lady Baring, Lady Aird, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, Sir Matthew Farrer, Mr Peter and Lady Margaret Stirling-Aird, Mr Michael and Lady Angela Oswald, Mr and the Hon Mrs Z L Mieczkowski, Mr R Thursby, Mrs John Griffin, Mr and Mrs Roderic Thesiger, Major Hugo Waterhouse, Major Peter Clarke, Major Raymond Seymour, Mrs David Davenport, Colonel Michael Mitchell, Lieutenant-Colonel F J Burnaby-Atkins, Mr and Mrs George Doughty, Mr Douglas Gordon, Captain Michael Boyle, Major John Surtees, Mr Michael Beaumont, Mrs Paul Gallico, Mr J F Peace (Asprey and Company), Major T H Holbech (representing the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding, Grenadier Guards), Mr Hugo Hawkings, Mr Edward Hawkings.

Mr and Mrs Peter Hawkings, Mr Charles Hawkings, Mr Tom Hawkings, Mr and Mrs James Dawnay, Miss Caroline Dawnay, Mr and Mrs Ronald Kershaw, Mr Malcolm Blanch, Mr and Mrs J Peyton-Jones, Mr H C Baring, Mrs Audrey Surtees, Mr E Bromley-Davenport, Mr James Hughes-Onslow, Mr Fergus Hughes-Onslow, Mr and Mrs Neil Hughes-Onslow, Major and Mrs Stanley Cayzer, Major Nigel Chamberlayne-Macdonald, Colonel Gregory Hood, Mr J P Kyle, Mrs D R Murphy, Mr Rae Shephard, Mr William Bell, Mrs Geoffrey Gibbon, Mr Charles Lee, the Rev Malcolm Hart-Richards, Captain and Mrs Matthew Harker, Mrs Harry Churchill-Davidson.

Mr and Mrs E FitzGerald, Mrs Maurice Pease, Mrs Martin McLaren, Mr W T Agar, Mrs M Goodenday, Mrs Robin Benson, Mr C I M Williams, Miss Annabel Nall-Cain, Mr James Nall-Cain, Mr A K J MacKenzie-Charrington, Mr Sebastian Whitestone, Mr Rory Collins, Major Gilbert Lamb, Mr A H Young, Mr and Mrs Charles Smyth, Mrs A D Smyth, Mr Michael Grazebrook, Mr James Whatman, Mr J J Mainwaring-Burton, Brigadier R Sassoon, Major Donald Robertson, Mr M R C Parr, Mrs Martha Hanbury, Major N L L Bailey, Major Robin Sanderson, Mr Richard Wood, Mrs S G Annandale, Captain Michael Wood, Mrs S Mirley, and Mrs M E Masey.

Breakfast

HM Government
The Archbishop of Canterbury was present at a breakfast at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of Mr James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, was the host.

Supper

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a theatre/supper given at the Coliseum and Lancaster House in honour of the delegation from the Soviet Union led by Mr M. S. Gorbachov.

Dinner

Law Society
The President of the Law Society, Mr Arthur Hoole, the vice-president and members of the council held a dinner at the society's hall yesterday. The guests included:

The Lord Chancellor, the High Commissioner for Australia, Sir John Donaldson, Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson, Mr Justice Whitford, Mr Justice Hirst, Sir Derek Oulton, Sir Thomas Hetherington, Mrs Justice Booth, Judge John Warde, Judge Quarren Evans, Mr David Calcutt, QC, Major-General J G R Allen.

Service luncheon

Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) and Middlesex Regiment (DCO)
Members and guests of the UK branch, Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association and Regimental Association of the Middlesex Regt (DCO) attended a joint luncheon at the Cavalry and Guards Club yesterday.

A presentation was made by the Honorary Colonel of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V), Colonel J. R. Heywood, to the President of the Regimental Association of the Middlesex Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Chattey, to commemorate the affiliation between the two regiments.

Fulbright first

The first Fulbright fellowship in the arts has been awarded to Mr John Newling, a sculptor who lecturs at Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham. He wins £10,000, plus travelling costs.

Latest wills

Mary Birtwell, of Chester, left £223,379 net. After bequests totalling £4,950 and effects she left the residue to the National Trust.

Major-General Walter Henry Denison Ritchie, of Weybridge, Surrey, life-president and former chairman of Earl's Court and Olympia Ltd left £155,902 net.

Mr Geoffrey Reeves Wills, of Romsey, Hampshire, left £909,952.

Mr Stanley George, Calcutt, of Cranbrook, Kent, left £819,316.

Jeffcock, Mr Ernest, of Hexham, Northumberland £336,233

Johnson, Mrs Mary Lisette, of Ramsey, Cambridgeshire £407,578

Wilson, Mr George William, of Froxfield, Wiltshire £632,396

Woollard, Mr Charles Westgarth Lorraine, of Ballynacargy, co Westneath, farmer, estate in England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland £685,562

Brandwood, Mr William, of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire £407,564

Ship handed over 10 months late

The £7,250,000 research ship Charles Darwin has finally been handed over to her owners, the Natural Environment Research Council, after a delay of 10 months.

The vessel was built by British Shipbuilders at its Appledore yard in north Devon and should have been ready last February. The council is now negotiating compensation for late delivery with British Shipbuilders.

The delay has forced the research council to scrap at least 165 days of scientific research at sea and cancel an important cruise of the Indian Ocean, due to have started next July.

The Charles Darwin also missed a prestige exhibition in Brazil which could have led to more orders for British Shipbuilders.

The council had refused to take delivery of the ship because of an unusual noise coming from the propeller shaft, which upset the delicate balance of the vessel's scientific instruments. It was cured only after advice from Lloyds technical investigation department.

But the council still refused to take delivery of the ship besause of other noises, thought to arise from the refrigeration equipment on board. For the past 10 months the Charles Darwin has been in dock at Falmouth.

She is expected to make her first scientific expedition early in the new year.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev D M Buxton, Rector, Ibstock, diocese of Leicester, to be also acting Rural Dean of Akeley South, same diocese.

The Rev J Bronnert, Vicar, St Paul's Blackbrook, in the team parish of Parr, St Helens, diocese of Liverpool, to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Weston, Runcorn, diocese of Chester.

The Rev R J C Chartres, priest-in-charge, St Stephen with St John, Westminster, diocese of London, to be Vicar, same parish.

The Rev G O Farran, Rector, Ditcheat with East Pennard and Pylle, diocese of Bath and Wells, to be also assistant diocesan director of ordinands.

The Rev M C Freeman, parish priest, St George's, Westcombe Park, diocese of Southwark: to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Kingston Vale, same diocese.

The Rev J D Hall, Vicar, St Chad's, York, Chaplain, Bootham Park Hospital, York, and sub-warden, Deanery of York, diocesan readers' association, diocese of York, to be also a non-residentiary canon of York Minster (Prebend of Bugthorpe).

The Rev F G Hunter, Vicar, Heslington, Rural Dean of Derwent, assistant chaplain, York University, and honorary chaplain to Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School, diocese of York, to be also a non-residentiary canon of York Minster (Prebend of Wetwang).

The Rev B Keeton, Team Rector, Howden, Proctor in Convocation, diocese of York, to be also a non-residentiary canon of York Minster (Prebend of Apesthorpe).

The Rev B T Lyons, Vicar, St Paul's, East Ham, diocese of Chelmsford, to be Vicar, Christ Church, St Albans, diocese of St Albans.

The Rev N G O'Connor, Vicar, St Mary's and St Andrew's, Hayling Island, diocese of Portsmouth, to be Rector, Corby Glen, diocese of Lincoln.

The Rev G S Pearson, Vicar, The Redeemer Church, Blackburn, diocese of Blackburn, to be assistant home secretary to the General Synod Board for Mission and Unity, Church House, Westminster.

The Rev F J Preston, Army Chaplain, to be Chaplain, St John's, Casablanca, Morocco, diocese of Europe.

The Rev T D M Raven, Vicar, Wadhurst with Tidebrook, diocese of Chichester, to be priest-in-charge, Tasburgh, Tharston, Forncett and Flordon, diocese of Norwich.

The Rev R Shaw, curate, Scissett, diocese of Wakefield, to be Vicar, Cumberworth with Denby Dale and priest-in-charge, Denby, same diocese.

Resignations and retirements:

The Rev C I Atkins, Vicar, Lord's Hill, Southampton, diocese of Winchester, resigned on November 30.

The Rev J P Drake, Vicar, Stewkley with Soulbury and Drayton Parslow, diocese of Oxford, to retire on April 30.

The Rev D F F Daws, Vicar, Alkmonton, Cubley, Marston Montgomery and Yeaveley, diocese of Derby, March 31.

The Rev D L Gardner, priest-in-charge, Ramsden Crays with Ramsden Bellhouse, diocese of Chelmsford, May 31.

Scottish Episcopal Church

The Rev A J Poolman, Vicar of Copely (Wakefield), to be Team Priest of Christ Church, Morningside (Edinburgh) and Anglican Chaplain of Napier College, Edinburgh.

Harrow School

Winter Term at Harrow ended on December 14. Churchill Songs were celebrated on December 7 when the guests of honour were King Hussain of Jordan and Queen Noor al Husain. The Cock House Match was won by Moretons (G. M. Attenborough), who beat Rendalls (A. A. Bishop). The Torpid Final was won by The Knoll (S. L. Parsonson), who beat Moretons (G. M. Attenborough). Next term begins on Thursday, Janurary 10, 1985.

Science report

Children who risk schizophrenia

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A note of cautious optimism is emerging from an internatonal research group investigating one aspect of schizophrenia. It believes it should be possible in the future to identify signs in children who could become prey to the illness in later life.

The findings are the work of doctors and scientists in the United States and Europe, who have formed a team called the High Risk Consortium. Much of the work is in the behavioural sciences.

But the basis for their studies arises from observations of the previous decade of research, showing links in which social factors, such as disrupted family life and a family history, play a part.

More recent studies are examining genetic factors for which a biochemical explanation could be found.

Those aspects are embraced in the new work, which rests on the assumption that some people inherit a susceptibility. The factors which determine whether they succumb to the illness lie in the stresses of living to which they are exposed.

The children of schizophrenics are a matter of concern, and hence the reason behind the formation of the international collaboration, because it is known that a higher proportion of those children fall victim to the condition.

The symptoms include confused thinking, disturbed perceptions, such as hearing voices, and a preoccupation with illogical ideas and fantasies.

But one of the recent findings is connected with circumstances of children whose parents were not considered mentally ill. What characterized their parents was that they habitually gave children confusing and negative messages.

This disordered communication was a strong predictor of a group of children who later developed schizophrenia. Twelve of the 65 children who were monitored over a long period developed the illness against a parental background of that type.

The importance of such findings is indicated in *Children at risk for schizophrenia*, a collection of research papers published by Cambridge University Press, and edited by Dr Norman Watt, a psychologist at the University of Denver, and one of the international investigators.

The approach adopted in the new research originated in Copenhagen in 1961, when researchers undertook to investigate 207 women. Today, the High Risk Consortium is made up of 15 main research centres.

So far 3,000 children have been screened, 1,200 with schizophrenic parents. Of those children, 35 to 40 have already shown clinical signs of the disorder. A child of a schizophrenic parent is now believed to be six times more likely than other children to develop the disorder.

OBITUARY

MR LUTHER ADLER

American character actor

Luther Adler, a leading character actor of the American stage and screen, has died in Pennsylvania aged 81.

He was born in New York on March 1903 to Jacob P. Adler and Sarah Adler, founders of the Adler Yiddish Theatre Company, with which he made his acting debut, aged five, in his father's production of *Schmendrick*. Originally named Lutha, he acted for 20 years both in Yiddish plays and on the American stage, after attending school in Chicago and learning the rudiments of his art with his parents alongside his brother Jay, and his sisters Nunia and Stella.

With Stella he joined the Group Theatre in 1932, one of whose creators, Lee Strasberg, went on to found the Actors' Studio. This ensemble visited Sir Peter Daubeny's World Theatre Season in London in 1965 with Strasberg's controversial production of *Three Sisters*, in which Luther appeared as Chebutykin.

In this performance Adler displayed his mastery of psychological realism as taught by Stanislavsky, and his disciples, Strasberg and Stella Adler. Though the Stanislavsky system attracted many American players when it was called "the Method", Luther Adler, unlike so many of his countrymen, never became its slave.

After making his adult debut with the Provincetown Players in 1921, Adler had joined Harry Green in his 1927 tour of three American comedies in the USA and England, though he returned to New York before it reached London. Thus his London debut took place in 1938, in the title role of *Golden Boy* by Clifford Odets, in which he had appeared with the Group on Broadway. It earned him rave notices as the violinist who became a prize fighter.

Between Rice's *Street Scene* in 1929 and Miller's *The Price* in 1970, Adler's tally of outstanding performances included Chatterton in Ardrey's *Thunder Rock* (1939), Shylock (1953), Shpichelsky in *A Month in the Country* (1956), and Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (1965), in which he was also to be seen briefly in the London production.

Besides directing and producing on occasion, Adler also acted in a large number of films, and on television. There was a gap after his screen debut in *Lancer Spy* (1937) until after the war, when he turned in over 30 outstanding performances, among which that in *M*, the Presiding Judge in *The Man in the Glass Booth*, and Professor Weiler in *Voyage of the Damned* will long be remembered.

ANDRÉ LAUG

André Laug, who died in Rome on December 16 at the age of 53 after a long illness, was a quiet, gentlemanly fashion designer who found success in flamboyant Italy.

He was born in Alsace in 1932 and had a classic French couture training in Paris, first with Nina Ricci and then with Courrèges. Laug found himself out of tune with the explosion of outré fashions in the 1960s and moved from France to Italy, where he worked with Antonelli. He set up his own fashion house in Rome in 1968.

André Laug's elegant clothes, based on the finest principles of tailoring, found their clientèle in the refined women of Rome. Although he presented a ready-to-wear line in Milan, Italy's capital of design, Laug's Alta Moda collections in Rome expressed his concept of chic.

Using beautiful Italian fabrics and softening the demands of high fashion he represented the taste and style of a previous era. But his designs were modern, subtle and fluid, and they drew to him some of the best-dressed and wealthiest of Rome's elegant women.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMBERLAIN

A friend writes:

Christopher Chamberlain, artist and teacher – 'Chimp' to his friends and colleagues and many hundreds of past and present students of Camberwell School of Art – died on December 13 aged 66, after a courageous battle with illness.

He was the son of George Chamberlain, OBE, intrepid organizer at the Old Vic theatre in the thirties. He trained as a painter at the Royal College of Art, where he was recognized as an outstanding student.

His work was about what Londoners see out of their windows and what he loved – modest gardens and yards and the random but exact complexities of purlieus and buildings off their guard. These subjects confronted the eyes, in Chimp, of an honest, demanding and austerely poetic craftsman.

It is a loss and a gain to painting that he gave most of his time in the last twenty-five years to teaching and being first mate in the administration of the painting department at Camberwell. More exactly: he converted his sense of purposeful craftsmanship into a broad way for his students and colleagues.

VICE-ADM SIR ARTHUR POWER

The Rt Hon Lord Rawlinson, QC, writes:

I write as a former chairman of the Bar and of the Senate of the Inns of Court about Sir Arthur Power who died last month. I was the chairman with whom Sir Arthur first worked a full period of office and I am sure that all my successors would wish to join me in paying a particular tribute to his memory and to the work which he did for the Bar.

Power brought to the affairs of our independent and very individualistic profession the healthy outside perception of a distinguished naval officer. But, above all, he brought to our affairs a talent for administration which our profession so rarely possesses.

His abilities were almost immediately heavily taxed by the preparation and presentation of the evidence on behalf of the Bar to the Royal Commission. Thereafter he played a central part in implementing many of that Commission's ultimate recommendations.

For 10 years he presided over the offices of the Senate at Grays Inn Square with authority, style and humour and that the Senate won (despite some diehard opposition which aroused his amused resignation) general acceptance and approval by the profession was greatly due to his labours and to his personality.

The Bar owes a very great deal to this distinguished and much loved naval person.

MAJ GEORGE PONSONBY

Major George Ponsonby, MC, Deputy Chief Steward of the Irish Turf Club, died on December 15 after a long illness. He was 71.

Educated at Eton and Sandhurst, he served in Africa and Italy in the Second World War with the 17th/21st Lancers, and was awarded the Military Cross. Later he moved to Thurles in co Tipperary, where he developed a shrewd reputation for buying yearlings and selling them as potential steeplechasers.

University news

Oxford
Dr D J Ibbetson has been elected to the first Lord Denning Fellowship in Law at Magdalen College from December 5. Although the full endowment of the fellowship requires a sum of £150,000, the election of Dr Ibbetson follows the outstanding success of a continuing appeal to old members of the college and the general public in raising £100,000.

Edinburgh
Professor John Shearer Kelley, BSc, MBChB, PhD, MA, has been appointed to the chair of pharmacology from a date to be arranged. He has been professor and chairman of pharmacology at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, since 1979.

London
University College London is to confer the title of fellow of the college on:

Professor R J Gillespie, professor of Chemistry at McMaster University; Professor G P Goold, professor of classics, Yale University; Professor K O Kemp, emeritus professor of civil engineering, UCL; Professor Jiaxi Lu, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Professor Sir Roy Marshall, Vice-Chancellor of Hull University; Professor G M Sifakis, professor of classical Greek literature, University of Thessaloniki; Mr J C Stillman, architect, Stillman and Eastwick-Field; Professor P M Sutton, Director, Public Health Service Centre for Applied Biology and Research, Porton Down; Professor K Vickerman, regius professor of zoology, Glasgow University.

The title of honorary fellow of the college is to be conferred on Professor D V I Fairweather, Vice-Provost (Medical), UCL and Lord Scarman, chairman of the court of London University.

The inauguration of the new fellows and honorary fellows will take place at the Annual Fellows Dinner on May 15, 1985.

Bristol
Professor Louis Solomon, MD, ChB (Capetown), professor of orthopaedic surgery and head of the department of orthopaedics, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, has been appointed to the Zimmer Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery. He is the second person to be nominated to the chair. The first, the brilliant young Cornish surgeon, David Fuller, was killed with all his family in the Scilly Isles helicopter accident in July 1983, before he could take up his duties.

The chair has been established and endowed by the Bristol and West of England Appeal for a Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery at the university. The patron of the appeal is the Prince of Wales and the president is the Bristol industrialist, Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith.

Professor Solomon will take up his post in April.

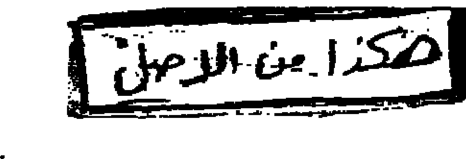
Sir Alec Merrison, the former vice-chancellor, has been elected to an honorary fellowship of the university.

Dr R. J. Elderton, BDS, PhD (London), consultant senior lecturer in periodontology and community dentistry, Dundee University, has been appointed to the chair in restorative dentistry upon the retirement of Professor E. W. Bradford from his chair in dental surgery at the end of July 1985.

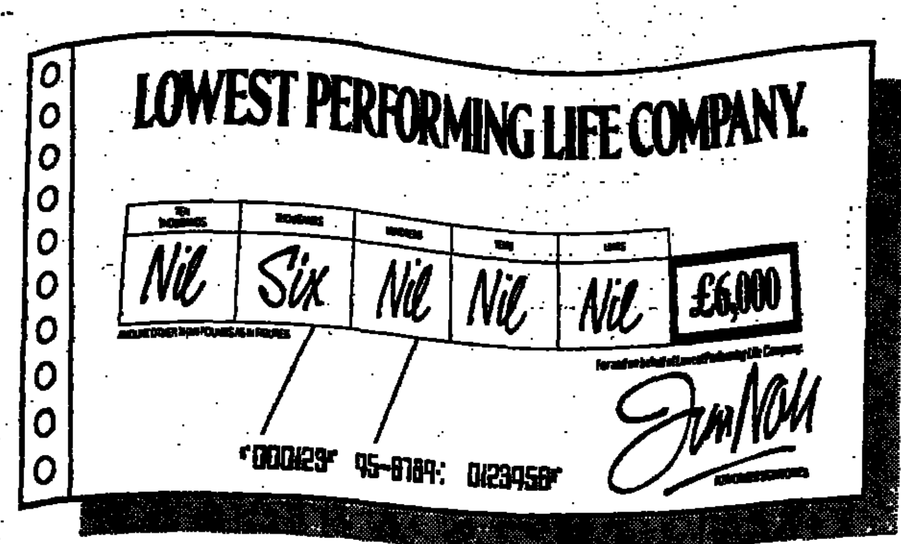
Newcastle
The North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund presented a cheque for £250,000 yesterday to the university medical school for the permanent appointment of a doctor who will be devoted to research into child cancer.

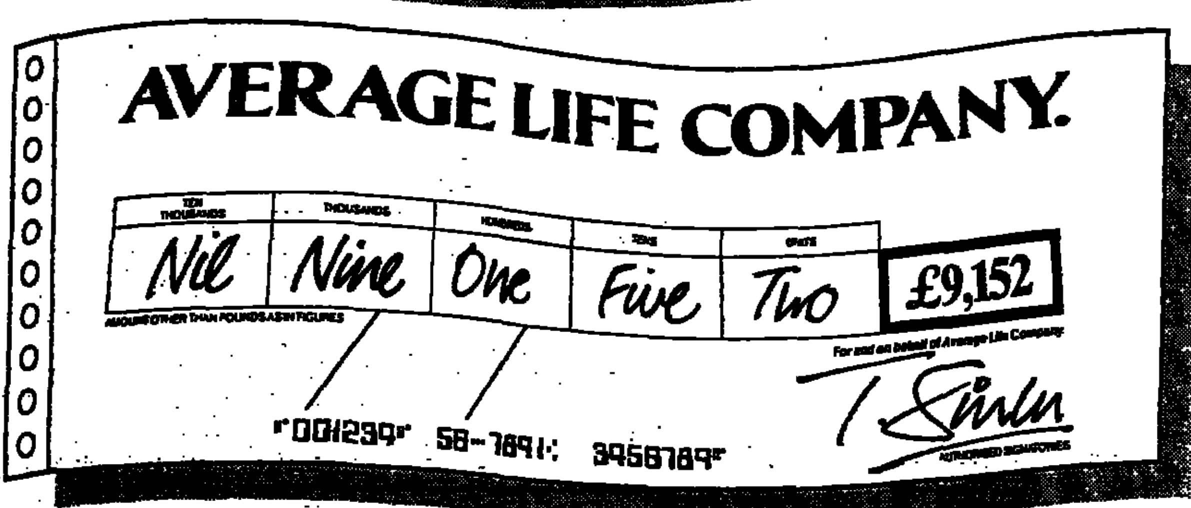
Dr Alan Craft, of the department of child health at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary, said the post of lecturer in paediatriac oncology would make Newcastle a main research centre in the field.

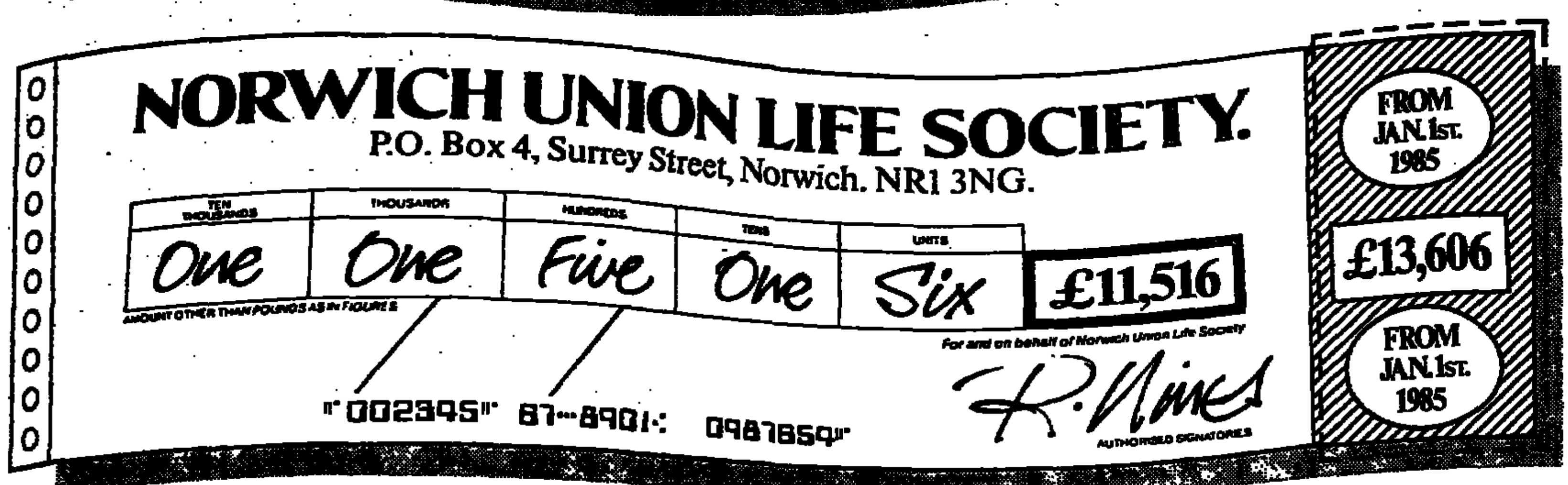
Dr Andrew Pearson, a local graduate who has spent the past year in the United States, will take up the post on January 1.



Which Insurance Company should I choose?







Why choose the average, when Norwich Union pays out so much more?

The difference in payouts from various Insurance Companies is enormous. A survey in May* showed that a man of 29 who paid £10 per month to a with-profit endowment insurance for 25 years (£3,000) would have received from the lowest performing company a payout of £6,000; from an average company £9,152 and from Norwich Union £11,516. But on 1 January 1985 Norwich Union will pay out £13,606. A staggering difference from other companies.

For shorter terms, we are currently the market leader. Now payouts are being increased still further. By a huge 9%. If a man of 29 had been investing for 10 years, on 1 January 1985 his total premiums of £1,200 would yield £2,563.

FOR PENSIONS TOO

Similar differences apply to with-profit pension policies.* A self-employed man retiring at age 65 who has paid 16 premiums of £500 per annum (£8,000) would have available to buy a pension a payout of £13,815 from the lowest performing company, from an average company £21,055 but from Norwich Union £22,861. On 1 January 1985 Norwich Union's payout will be increased to £30,106. Another staggering difference from other companies.

Bigger payouts mean a bigger lump sum when the mortgage policy matures and pays off the mortgage. Or a bigger pension. Or even more money for that special dream you're saving for.

EXPERTS IN INVESTMENT

When you invest in a Norwich Union policy, you know that the rewards we offer are based on proven performance.

Norwich Union invests with flair and care in the most dynamic sectors of the economy. In property and ordinary shares including oil. Our successful investment strategies enable us to provide bigger payouts through bigger bonuses.

And as your financial adviser will tell you, Norwich Union have delivered what they've promised. Often more. Over and over again.

THE POLICYHOLDER COMES FIRST

Norwich Union is a mutual company. This means it has no shareholders to take a slice of the profits. All our profits belong to you – the with-profit policyholders. You invest in us, and we work to build up the substantial benefits you deserve.

We believe there's only one answer to the question: "Which Insurance Company should I choose?" Talk to your financial adviser. We're sure he'll agree you're better off the Norwich Way.

*Source: Money Management Magazine May & September 1984

YOU'RE BETTER OFF THE NORWICH WAY.



THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1	Bank of Scotland	
2	Bank of Ireland	
3	Barclays	
4	Provident	
5	Lloyds	
6	Wintrust	
7	Nat Aust Bk	
8	Wagon	
9	Nat West	
10	Clive	
	FOODS	
11	RHM	
12	Low (Wm)	
13	Kwik Save	
14	Iceland Frozen	
15	Glass Glover	
16	Argyll	
17	AB Foods	
18	Br Vending (BVI)	
19	Cadbury-Schwepp	
20	Fisher (Albert)	
	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
21	Barrow Hepburn	
22	Benlox	
23	Burmd Qualcast	
24	Aaronson	
25	Beatson Clarke	
26	Ashley	
27	Adwest	
28	Assoc Br Eng	
29	BBA	
30	Baheroel	
	ELECTRICALS	
31	Western Selection	
32	Unitech	
33	Auto Sec	
34	CASE	
35	Cray Elect	
36	Electronic Rentals	
37	Emess Lighting	
38	Farnell Elect	
39	Pethow	
40	MK Elec	

 Your Daily Total

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

More cheer for investors

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 21. § Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for +32 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red. yld %
[illegible]							

BREWERIES

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							
349	250	Gerrard Nat	314	..	17.1	5.5	9.3
68	45	Guinness Peat	56	..	0.9	1.6	20.6
163	121	Hambros	155	● -2	8.6	5.6	16.3
16	9	Do (50p)	£13	● +½	89.5	6.9	13.6
360	235	Hill Samuel	313	● ..	15.4	4.9	8.9
84	48½	HK Shanghai	84	+2½	..b	..	..
313	228	Joseph (Leopold)	238	● ..	16.1	6.9	12.2
176	124	King & Shaxson	170	..	11.8	6.9	14.4
460	320	Kleinwort Benson	380	-6	17.9	4.7	8.6
542	422	Lloyds	527	+5	34.9	6.6	4.4
68	48	Lon Scot Fin	54	..	3.8	7.0	10.5
42	24	Manson	24	..	1.4	6.0	9.4
423	408	Mercury Secs	408	..	16.4	4.0	8.5
429	277	Midland	372	..	36.4	9.8	6.2
280	193	Nat Aust Bk	248	● +6	..	..	..
595	420	Nat West	588	+5	36.2	6.1	4.6
72	57	Ottoman	£59	..	450	8.6	16.5
198	144	Provident	189	+1	13.6	7.2	8.1
100	72½	Rea Bros	80	..	1.8	2.2	25.9
20⅞	14	Royl Bnk Of Can	£18⅜	+⅛	..	..	..
248	194	Royl Bnk Of Scot	238	● +4	12.1	5.1	8.4
808	625	Schroders	728	..	23.6	3.2	12.2
370	250	Seccombe M	320	● ..	28.6	8.9	10.5
71	48	Smith St Aubyn	62	..	6.4	10.4	6.7
579	442	Stand Chart	484	..	40.0	8.3	6.7
783	612	Union	718	..	48.6	6.8	11.7
64	42	Wagon	63	-1	3.9	6.2	17.0
41⅞	23½	Wells Fargo	£41⅞	+⅞	..	..	..
255	195	Wintrust	240	+2	6.1	2.6	16.2

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
202	156	Aberdeen Constr	182	..	9.4	5.2	9.2
258	185	Amec	258	● +2	15.0	5.9	10.4
78	38	Amcliffe	60	..	..	..	7.7
94	79½	Attwoods	83	..	5.0b	6.0	24.3
388	283	BPB Industries	288	● +2	10.4	3.7	10.1
218	122	Baggeridge Brick	215	..	8.9	4.1	9.1
169	78	Barratt Devs	84	..	10.9	13.0	5.8
45	27	Bailey(Ben) Constr	29	● ..	2.6	8.9	5.8
..	..	Beechwood	..	..	..	..	..
184	116	Bellway	130	● +1	10.0	7.7	8.7
76	53	Benford Concrete	70	..	5.4	7.7	15.9
64	43	Bett Bros	50	..	4.1	8.1	13.2
[illegible]							

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

CINEMAS AND TV

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

DRAPERY AND STORES

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

ELECTRICALS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

FINANCE AND LAND

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

FOODS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

INDUSTRIALS A – D

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

E – K

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

L – R

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

S – Z

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

INSURANCE

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

LEISURE

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

MINING

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

OIL

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

PROPERTY

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

SHIPPING

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

SHOES AND LEATHER

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

TEXTILES

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

TOBACCOS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sterling undermined by Treasury-Bank rift

There is a theory, based on observation, that when Mrs Thatcher is out of the country, the pound suffers and interest rates rise. It happened yesterday and no doubt her ministers are bracing themselves for her return when she will cowe them with rhetorical questions like: "Can't I turn my back for a moment?" and "Do I have to do everything myself?"

This is not as funny as it may sound. The City's perception of the Prime Minister's absences overseas is that they leave a vacuum of authority. The sharpness of policy is suddenly blurred and there is a lack of direction.

It may be just imagination and nothing actually changes that cannot be explained, yesterday for example, by deepening fears of a collapse in the oil market and the damage that might do to the balance of payments and sterling.

There was however, a new factor working yesterday to the pound's cost. Both in the City and in overseas money centres, the relationship between the Treasury and the Bank of England is closely monitored. That relationship is now widely judged to be in an unhappy phase. The Bank has made little secret of its concern with certain trends in the economy and by implication its disagreement with aspects of the Government's handling of the economy. This rift threatens to widen.

As if that were not enough, there is also the Johnson Matthey affair. When the Bank reluctantly decided around dawn on Monday, October 1, to take over the ownership of Johnson Matthey Bankers, it thought it was severing a potentially gangrenous wound from the body of the banking system, and in particular the gold market, with a cool clean cut.

City lame duck

Who can tell what would have happened if the Bank had not stepped into the breach when all possibility of a private sector solution to JMB's problems fell away? But less than two months later it is becoming more apparent by the day that the solution was far from being a clean one. The whole operation is becoming ever more clouded by the rising commitment of the Bank; by the continuing refusal of the Bank of England's partners in the indemnity package for excess JMB losses to sign a final agreement; by the political exploitation by Dr David Owen and others of the evident contrast between the rescue of a City lame duck and what happns in industry; by failures in the Bank of England's communications with the Treasury; and by the relevation of new details by dribs and drabs that, whatever their individual importance, build up a Belgrano-style aura of malaise about the whole affair.

The revelation in *The Times* yesterday that the Bank of England has increased its theoretical commitment to JMB by depositing £100 million with its subsidiary and that it had not mentioned this to the Treasury, still less to the Chancellor who gaily affirmed in the Commons on Monday that the rescue involved no call on public funds, is a prime case in point.

The Bank did not tell the Treasury because this was thought to be normal banking business, aimed at providing the JMB's ongoing operations with some money to do business with in the money markets. However sensible in terms of rehabilitating JMB the deposit may have been, that displays political naivity on the part of the Bank of England, more hopeless when it is only too clear that the Bank's opponents in the Treasury and elsewhere will milk any embarrassment over the JMB affair to the full.

Its secrecy, at least, can hardly have encouraged the commercial bankers who have yet to sign the indemnity package. They are haggling over tax treatment of their £75 million share of the indemnities but are also still unsure just what they are getting themselves into.

Public gaze

Dr Owen stirred the pot vigourously again yesterday with another letter to the Chancellor casting doubt on the received wisdom that JMB's worst problems relate solely to the bad debts accumulated after its rapid expansion outside bullion-related lending. In frustration at the lack of detailed responses from the Bank and the Treasury, Dr Owen has pinpointed the general low level of running profit on JMB's lending – risky clients usually equate with good profit margins – to suggest that JMB's supposedly sound bullion business must have been highly unprofitable, casting further doubt over the Bank's ability to resuscitate its new unwanted child. The Bank will have none of that. It has already told Dr Owen that bullion-based business made most of the profit.

Such continuing argument should be seen more as an attempt to make sure JMB issues do not fade away from public gaze. Those issues remain what they always were: why did the Bank's monitoring system not produce action until the damage was done and should the rescue have taken place, or a Dr Owen argues, JMB have been allowed to sink, with Bank of England action being confied to dealing with the ensuing waves?

So far only two things are clear. First, the rescue is going to cost the Bank of England a lot of money, when, at the time, no loss was envisaged. The Bank has been forced to provide first £10 million and later £75 million indemnity, about £40 million of which will be called on latest estimates. Since the central bank now stands behind JMB, the new deposit emphasizes rather than increases its ultimate contingent liability.

Second, the rescue though a good example of cool action, will untimately cost the Bank's reputation and bargaining position in Whitehall dear. The inquiry was first criticized for being dominated by Bank and Treasury men. It is clear it will in practice be a battle between the two sides, between which, at senior level, there is no love to be lost.

Problems for Price Waterhouse

The failure of senior partners of Price Waterhouse and Deloitte Haskins & Sells to persuade a sufficient number of their colleagues that merging made sense has been greeted in the profession with shocked relief. Despite reservations about the wisdom of a merger on this scale, PW's and Deloitte's rivals did not suspect that rebellious hearts beat beneath so many accounting waistcoats. They are however delighted at the outcome pressures on them to merge, which would have become irresistible had PW and Deloitte become one big firm, are off.

But perhaps only for the time being. Mr Douglas Baker and Mr Michael Blackburn of Touche Ross and Mr Bill Mackay of Ernst and Whinney, to name but three, are tempting fate by dancing with ill-concealed delight on the grave of their competitors' fated scheme. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, there is the embarrassing situation in which Arthur Young McClelland Moores finds itself as uncritical auditors of Johnson Matthey Bankers: the firm inevitably is a focal point for the Chancellors' inquiry into banking supervision. Only marginally less embarrassing is the position of those at Price Waterhouse and Deloitte who put their judgment and therefore to an extent, their credibility, on the line in advocating the merger that failed.

Both sides remain tight-lipped, but it would appear that Mr Jeffery Bowman and PW, where he is senior partner, have the greater problem internally. It was apparent at the beginning – and stated here on September 19 – that the mooted merger was not a merger, which implies equality, but a takeover by the dominant partner, namely Price Waterhouse. This truth rapidly sank in at Deloitte, where dissatisfaction, crystallized in a series of proposals designed to give Deloitte greater weight.

By accepting them PW's policy committee won over Deloitte, where the merger was given the necessary voting support, but only at the cost of dissension in PW's own ranks.

Opposition, which led to the merger's failing to get enough support in the British firm, appears to have been led by Alan Wheatley. He thus emerges as a rival to Jeffery Bowman.

All in all the report on the stillborn Price Waterhouse Deloitte (the name of the doomed firm) must be heavily qualified.

Opec threat to drive down North Sea oil prices

From David Young, Geneva

A veiled warning was given in Geneva yesterday that Opec may use its massive production potential to drive North Sea prices below their economic level.

The threat is the result of growing bitterness among Opec members because Britain has failed to restrict North Sea oil output and hold prices at the level set by Opec.

The 13 members of the organizations ministerial council are divided on how pressure should be brought to bear on Britain to bring its oil policies into line With Opec's.

The more moderate members, led by Sheikh Zaki Ahmed Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, believe that a policy of persuasion should be used.

Others say that Opec should use its economic muscle to push up output and hit North Sea revenues.

Sheikh Yamani said yesterday that he would oppose such a move. "We do not overestimate ourselves. After all, the British are our friends and we are all partners in the oil industry. We are not that arrogant."

However, the Opec president,


Sheikh Yamani (left) answering questions yesterday.

Dr Subroto, the Indonesian oil minister, yesterday accused Britain and Norway of deliberately indulging in pricing practives which can only adersely affect Opec attempts to stabilize the oil market.

He said: "The most recent deplorable example of this is the intended shift of the North Sea producers towards linking the price of their cudes with the spot market.

"Those producers must realize that the effect of such price practives can only be to estabilize the market and very adversely affect the elicately-balanced world oil price structure.

"Opec alone cannot go on bearing the enormous costs oil market stability in the face of such negative practices, particularly when the North Sea producers derive much more benefit from market stability".

"Such harmful practices may lead to a collapse of the market and will hurt all oil producers.

"Opec, which had been on the scene long before the North Sea emerged as a factor, and has vastly greater reserves, would surely prevail is such a development were to take place.

"It is ironical that it is those same producers, especially the UK, which are most vulnerable to any eventual price collapse resulting from their own practices.

These very countries have the highest oil investment costs in the world

Their oil fields, especially those which have been recently developed, are the most expensive in the world and can never be sustained without a reasonably stable international oil price."

Opec opposition to a move linking world official oil price. To those now being seen in the spot markets, despite the fact that it puts an estimated 60 per cent of its 16 million barrel a day output through the spot markets, was echoed yesterday by Sheikh Yamani.

He said: "The day that happens, if it ever happens, it will be chaos."

Pay rises accelerate to average of 8.2%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Average earnings grew by 8.2 per cent in the 12 months to October, compared with 6.3 per cent in the year to September. The October figure, which compared with a 5 per cent rise in retail prices, was boosted by back pay for civil servants and teachers.

This added about 2.2 per cent to the index, while the miners' strike and changes in the timing of settlements reduced average earnings by about 1.5 per cent.

The underlying rise in earnings is thus put at 7.5 per cent by the Department of Employment, the same figure as in every month since July.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, welcomed news of a 6,000 rise in manufacturing, seasonally adjusted, rose by an average of 3.000 a month during the latest three months, compared with a 1,000-a-month decline in the previous three months and a steady fall since the 1950s.

Overtime working also increased in October, to 12.05 million hours a week, the highest level since June 1980.

The counterpart to this was a further rise in the rate of growth of unit labour costs in manufacturing in October, to 6.5 per cent, indicating a further slowdown in productivity growth.

Over the latest three months, unit labour costs in manufacturing grew by 5.3 per cent, compared with a year earlier, the same figure as in the third quarter. This compared with figures falls of 1 per cent in the United States, 6 per cent in Japan, and no change in Germany.

Figures from the Confederation of British Industry yesterday indicate a flat trend in pay settlements in manufacturing

Nottingham bid fails

Nottingham Manufacturing's £53 million takeover bid for Johnson Group Cleaners, Britain's biggest dry cleaning company, has failed.

Mr Harry Djanogly's cash-rich Marks and Spencer clothing supplier last night conceded defeat in the 11-week-old takeover battle, despite the fact that under City rules it was allowed to extend the offer until next Sunday.

A spokesman for Hambros Bank, Nottingham's financial advisers, said that the bid was so far short of success that there was no point in extending it any longer and the offer lapsed last night.

This is the fourth takeover bid that Johnson, which is advised by S. G. Warburg, has fought off in seven years. It is a big setback for Nottingham.

US bank buys 29.9% of Panmure Gordon

By Philip Robinson

A large US banking group has bought 29.9 per cent stake in Panmure Gordon, the stockbrokers, for an undisclosed sum. But the Florida-based NCNB Corporation does not plan to take control when the rules allow.

It fears such a move could jeopardize Panmure's corporate finance activities which provide the bulk of its business, and would take away the incentive for the present 26 partners and 170 staff of the firm.

Through its subsidiary Carolina Bank, NCB has been talking to Panmure for about a year. A price was struck last summer and completition is due in February.

Panmure Gordon, once the official brokers to the Japanese Government and Imperialist China, formerly ranked alongside Cazenove for image.

It now offers corporate finance advice to more than 100 companies, including Grand Metropolitan, Bass, ICI and Sterling Guarantee. It commands considerable placing power among the institutions.

Mr John Lithiby, joint-senior partner said yesterday: "We have structured our deal because corporate finance is going to be a cut-throat area of the new scene and we want to avoid any possible conflicts of interests, and still have the sound backing of the bank."

At the end of last June, assets of NCNB were $15.4 billion (£13.1 billion).

NCNB set up inLondon in 1972 and formed Carolina Bank seven years later. It established a strong corporate finance presence. Acquisition of the Panmure stake is seen as a big step towards the creation of a broadly-based investment bank.

In a separate announcement yesterday, Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank, announced that its Australian joint venture with Colonial Mutual Life Assurance is to acquire a half interest in Hattersley Maxwell Noall the Sydney-based stockbroking firm.

US growth increases by 1.2%

By Our Economics Correspondent

Economic growth in the United States has accelerated this quarter, according to the first, or "flash", estimate of gross national product. The estimate shows annualized real GNP growth of 2.8 per cent, compared with a revised growth figure of 1.6 per cent in the third quarter.

Financial markets were expecting a lower fourth quarter flash estimate of about 2.2 per cent. The higher-than-expected figure will reduce pressure on the Federal Reserve to ease its grip on the money supply, although most analysts still expect a half-point reduction in the Fed discount rate of 8.5 per cent.

Strong growth in consumer spending and an improvement in net exports were the main factors behind the fourth quarter growth improvement. Retail sales rose sharply in November and are reported to be strong in December.

Quilter apologises

The Stock Exchange chairman's firm last night admitted it had misjudged the massive response to the Telecom issue and was responsible for delays in sending cheques and allotment letters to clients. Mr John Nichols, a partner at Quilter Goodison, said: "We have learned lessons from this exercise. We have tried to do a job well and if there have been delays we are sorry but there were huge logistical problems". The vast majority of investors throughout the country got their letters telling them of their share allocations more than a week age.

Quilter Goodison whose senior partner is Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange was appointed one of the regional organisers and was paid a commission for the applications it handled, many coming from solicitors.

Bairstow rights

Bairstow Eves, the estage agent, is proposing a one for three £6.8 million rights issue of 11,070,414 new ordinary shares at 64p. Forecast pre-tax profits for 1984 are £3 million compared with the 1983 adjusted figure of £1.60 million. Earnings per share for this year would be 5.36p, a 31 per cent rise on last year. Tempus, page 17

Westland slump

Westland, the helicopter manufacturer, has reported a sharp fall in profits for the year to September 30. Profit before tax and exceptional items fell from £26 million to £16.8 million but fell to £2.8 million after the exceptional provision. Turnover fell from £326 million to 296 million. Tempus, page 17

Crystalate boost

Crystalate Holdings, the electronic components and equipment group, made taxable profits of £5.66 million in the year to September 30 against £3.2 million. The dividend was raised to 3.4p gross against 2.85p gross. Tempus, page 17

New Era sale

Guiness Peat has sold New Era Holdings, which operates New Era Laboratories, to Imperial Foods for £4.1 million.

TI stake?

Heron Corporation has taken a stake in TI Group, the West Midlands engineers, under a nominee name, according to market sources. TI directors were attempting to check reports of the stake, while no Heron directors were available for comment last night.

Waddington stake sold

Mr Robert Maxwell last night announced he had sold the bulk of his 20 per cent stake in John Waddington, the Monopoly games maker. Last week Mr Maxwell conceded defeat in the fiercely contested £44 million takeover bid for Waddington by his British Printing and Communications Corporation.

BPCC has sold just over 1.6 million Waddington shares to insitutions for about £7.5 million. Earlier this week, BPCC announced it had sold a 1 per cent holding and that Pergamon Press Inc, an overseas associate, had also sold 1.89 per cent.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington chairman, said last night: "I'm delighted. It seems that we have won more than just the battle."

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	942.6(+2.7)
FT-A All Share	586.60(+2.80)
FT Govt Securities	82.03(–0.23)
FT-SE 100	1220.6(+4.4)
Bargains	24,343)
Datastream USM	105.45(–0.09)
New York	
Dow Jones	1217.20(+5.63)
Tokyo	
Nikkai Dow	11,558.43(+98.22)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1173.31(+7.18)
Amsterdam:	182.3(+2.4)
Sidney: AO	718.1(+10.0)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1089.5(+9.5)
Brussels:	
General	157.84(+0.11)
Paris: CAC	182.5(+3.9)
Zurich:	
SKA General	319.20(+1.9)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $308.75pm-$309.30
close $309.50-$310.00
New York:
Comex $309.25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Causton, Sir J.	121p +15p
Bowater Ind	213p +19p
Cohen, A.	485p +35p
Highland Elec.	81p +6p
Arlen Elect	43p +3p
Minet Hold.	225p +15p
Bestobell	309p +20p
Brit. Syphon	94p +6p
Steel Burrl.	275p +17p
Davy Corp	84p +5p
Molins	142p +8p
Rockware	35p +3p
FALLS:	
Biochanics Int	15p –3p
Rotaprint	7p –1p
Sheffield Brick	15p –2p
Bristol Oil & Mins.	26p –3p
Crystalate Hold.	245p –28p
Star Compt	60p –5p
Sumrie Clothes	61p –5p
Westland	126p –10p
Floyd Oil Part.	80p –6p
Microvitec	121p –9p
Ultramar	206p –14p
Bolton Textile	15p–1p

CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1.1740 (–0.0110)
£: DM 3.6395 (–0.0180)
£: SwFr 3.0045 (–0.0055)
£: FFr 11.1455 (–0.0585)
£: Yen 291.10 (–0.60)
£ Index: 73.3 (–0.3)

New York:
£: $1.1745
$: DM 3.0982
$ Index: 143.2 (+0.5)

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9¾-9½%
3-month Interbank 9¹⁵⁄₁₆–9¹³⁄₁₆%
3-month eligible bills 9⁹⁄₃₂–9⅛%
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 10.75-11.50
Federal Funds 7¾%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.80-7.76%
Long bond 103⁵⁄₃₂–103⁷⁄₃₂

WALL STREET

[illegible]

Share rise continues

New York (Agencies) – A spectacular year-end rally triggered by lower interest rates carried the stock market sharply higher in heavy trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which soared 34.78 points on Tuesday, was up 8.06 to 1,219.63 at 11am. The NYSE Index was up 0.54 to 97.32 and the price of an average share was up 18 cents. Advances led declines by 976 to 396 among the 1,809 issues crossing the tape.

Early volume amounted to about 49.41 million shares, the fifth heaviest on record.

Before the market opened, the Commerce Dept reported that the economy is growing at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent in the current quarter. The preliminary estimate of Gross National Product will be revised in late Jan, when more information is available.

Tuesday's surge in the stock market was prompted by falling interest rates. Bankers Trust Co in New York matched Manufacturers Hanover Trust in a reduction in the prime lending rate to 10¾ per cent from 11¼ per cent.

National Semi-Conductor was the most active issue up ⅞ to 13⅜. A T and T was second, off ⅛ to 18⅞. Texas Utilities, was third, off ⅜ to 25⅝.

IBM was up ⅜ at 123½, Digital Equip up ⅞ at 109⅛. Advanced Micro Devices up ¾ to 29⅛ and Texas Instruments up ¾ to 119.

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.

Feb 312.10–312.30
Vol 284
Tone steady

	Wheat B Close	Barley Close
Jan	£109.85	£110.55
Mar	£113.35	£113.40
May	£117.00	£116.50
Jul	£118.90	–
Sep	£97.75	97.75
Nov	£101.40	£100.85

Total lots traded
Wheat 410
Barley 76

APPOINTMENTS

Kleinwort, Benson: Mr M G Baker, Mr A B Buckwell, Viscount Chandos, Mr I R Peacock, Mr D R Soper and Mr A J Sumner have been appointed to the board. Mr R C Ryder has been appointed to the board of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management.

Bestobell: Mr John Eric Dowling joins the board on January 1.

International Thomson Organisation: Mr Francis Higgins has been elected to board as finance director.

Boehringer Ingelheim: Mr John Woodford has joined as director for consumer products.

RAC Motoring Services and RAC Insurance Brokers: Mr Arthur R W Large becomes chief executive.

London and Devonshire Trust: The following have joined the board after the acquisition of Central and Provincial Management: Mr Michael Heathcoat Amory (chairman); Mr Andrew Feilden (joint managing director); Mr Peter Hosken (joint managing director); Mr David Heathcoat Amory, MP, Sir Ian Heathcoat Amory and Mr Leslie Duffield.

Roxburghe Guarantee Corporation: Mr Martin Wigram has succeeded to Mr Ron Basher as managing director.

Herbert Johnson: Mr Robin Benson has been appointed chairman.

Bell Canada International: Mr Rheal Proulx has become managing director of BCI (UK).

Creasy Public Relations: Mr Howard Harding has been made a director.

Cambridge Petroleum: Mr Nicholas Cobbold has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr Robert Tainsh.

Unilever: Mr A Sherazee has been appointed head of insurance.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Money was tight throughout yesterday. Interbank opened at 9⅞ – ⅝ per cent, and quickly climbed to ⅞ – ⅝ per cent, staying in that area for the rest of the morning. The shortage pinched increasingly in the afternoon, though the authorities eventually managed to relieve the bulk of it. Rates reached 10½ – 10 per cent in the lunch period, and eventually closed around 12 – 10 per cent.

Despite reluctance to change positions with Christmas close at hand, the pressures on sterling caused rates to firm in thinly traded period markets. They were up ¹⁄₁₆ or ⅛ at the finish for both interbank term-deposits and sterling CD's.

Local authorities rarely did anything beyond the occasional light sally into money at two or seven days' notice.

[illegible]

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

[illegible]

GOLD

[illegible]

Sovereigns* (new): $73-74 (£62-63)
*Excludes VAT

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 3 November, 1984 to 4 December, 1984, inclusive: 9.904 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound took another battering on the foreign exchanges yesterday, registering a few more lowest ever levels before closing at $1.1740 (1.1855).

Trading was inevitably very thin in the last week before the holiday but, with sterling having few freinds, this only tended to exaggerate its declines and at its lowest ebb it was traded at 1.1715. Dealers think the pound is now in a one-way street.

Most important is the worry over world oil prices, brought to the fore by the Opec meeting in Geneva.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 19	Market rates close December 19	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1700-1.1867	$1.1735-1.1745	0.13-0.11c prem	0.40-0.37c prem
Montreal	$1.5450-1.5620	$1.5475-1.5494	0.09-0.14c disc	0.09-0.18c disc
Amsterdam	4.0837-4.1370fl	4.1014-4.1084fl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	72.71-73.50f	72.80-73.05f	4-10c disc	7-16c disc
Copenhagen	13.0150-13.1150k	13.0197-13.0407k	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1621-1.1695p	1.1627-1.1641p	47-63p disc	129-159p disc
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

OTHER STERLING RATES

[illegible]	[illegible]
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.3575-0.3615
Malaysia dollar	2.8346-2.8395
Mexico peso	225-250
New Zealand dollar	2.4268-2.4338
Saudi Arabia riyal	4.2045-4.2445
Singapore dollar	2.5551-2.5597
South Africa rand	2.2543-2.2619
United Arab Emirates dirham	4.3380-4.3780

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

[illegible]	[illegible]
Netherlands	3.4970-3.5020
France	9.4825-9.4925
Japan	247.80-247.75
Italy	1903-1906
Belgium(Comm)	62.12-62.17
Hong Kong	7.8266-7.8280
Portugal	168.40-168.90
Spain	171.10-171.25
Austria	21.76-21.78

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]					
Exco	503	+15	11.6	2.1	28.9
Exploration	65	..	4.5	6.9	10.6
First Charlotte	11	+½	0.1	0.8	..
Frost (AJ & D)	84	..	4.0	4.8	12.4
Goode (D & M)	44	..	1.8	4.1	7.3
Henderson Admin	545	● +30	16.7	2.9	11.5
M & G	702	+2	31.4	4.5	17.3
Martin (RP)	375	..	17.9	4.8	9.8
Mercantile House	292	+8	17.1	5.9	7.4
Mills & Allen	350	+5	20.0	5.7	10.8
Smith Brothers	104	–1	7.9	7.6	4.5
Yule Catto	200	..	7.9	3.9	9.1

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

[illegible]

COMPANY NEWS

● PLYSU: Results for 28 weeks to Oct. 13. Interim, 0.94p (0.8p). Figs. in £000. Turnover 13,559 (12,330). Pft. before tax 1,900 (1,625). Tax 855 (725). EPS 6.5p (6.0p on old cap). The housewares performance has been particularly buoyant, although containers' turnover has fallen somewhat short of expectations. Expanding and updating production capacity continues and co. is now installing further equipment which will have a marked effect on containers' production efficiency.

● AMERICAN OIL FIELDS SYSTEM: Half-year to June 30. Figs. in £000. Turnover 834 (956). Lease op. costs, windfall profits and production taxes, 164 (207). Trading loss 283 (346). Pretax loss 543 (644). Tax Nil (Nil). Loss per share, 5.4p (6.4p).

● EIS GROUP: Conditional agreements have been entered into under which co. will acquire the Flexibox Group from Burmah Oil for £4.58 million cash. The transaction is expected to be completed towards the end of Jan. 1. An additional consideration, not exceeding £350,000, related to the 1984 profits and divs. of Flexibox Overseas subsids. and assoc. cos. will also be paid.

Y. J. Lovell reports for the year to Sept. 30. Final 4.6p, mkg. (5.2p). Figs. in £000. T/over 209,133 (169.591). Tdg. pft. 6,470 (4,556). Pretax profit 6,420 (6,556).

The board says the consistent growth in nearly all areas of activities and, in particular, private housebuilding, continues to demonstrate the group's ability to progress, notwithstanding the generally unfavourable conditions. The present year has started well and the directors believe the co. will continue to prosper in 1985.

● CADBURY-SCHWEPPES and AB Marabou have signed an agreement in principal to co-operate in Sweden and the other Nordic markets. Marabou will acquire 25 per cent of Cadbury's Swedish sub., Cadbury Slotts and has an option to acquire further shares at a later date. The parties intend that opportunities will be sought for distribution of each other's brands.

● TATE AND LYLE: Sub, Redpath Industries, has agreed to sell its packaging division consisting of Merry Packaging and CB Packaging to Nor Baker Industries, of Newmarket, Ontario. The transaction will be completed in January 1985.

● TOWLES: Intm. div. nil (same) for half-year to Aug. 31. Figs. in £000. Turnover 5,513 (5,014). Pretax loss 354 (325). Loss situation shown is usual as at August 31 each year. The seasonal nature of co's products, knitwear in particular, is such that a significantly high proportion of turnover and related profits are not normally achieved until the second half of the year.

● LONDON AND MANCHESTER SECURITIES: Co has entered into an agreement for the purchase of T & F Investments for £2.5 million to be satisfied by the allotment to the T & F Investment's shareholders of 25 million ord. shares in London and Manchester. If the transaction is approved by the London and Manchester shareholders, this will give the shareholders in T & F Investments 41.6 per cent of London and Manchester's enlareged issued ord. share capital.

● FLEXELLO CASTORS AND WHEELS: Final 2p (0.7p) for year to Sept 30. (Figs in £000). Group turnover 11,568 (8,915). Pretax PFT. 734 (loss 33).

●SYLTONE: Half-year to Sept 30. interim 3.6p (same). Figs in £000. Turnover 8,909 (6,882). Pretax PFT 469 (159). Tax 174 (184). Minorities 3 (2). Attrib PFT 292 (27 loss). PFT after tax is considerably enhanced due to the lifting of the burden of unrelieved tax losses overseas, states board.

● PICT PETROLEUM:) Results for year to Oct 31. Figs in £000 Turnover 1,468 (65). Profit on oil and gas trading 541 (loss 23). Admin expenses 112 (154). Pre and post-tax loss, 823 (loss 232). The level of activity which Pict is planning for 1985 should ensure a continuing drilling interest.

● HICKSON INTL: Hickson announces a £1.2 million agreed bid for the privately-owned Beds Flooring and Adhesive Distributors and Beds Flooring Distributors Ltd. The acquisition will increase the geographical coverage of Hickson subsidary Alvin, Morris Ltd and provide benefits both of scale and synergy.

● J. AND H. B JACKSON: Div 1p, MKG.1.75p (1.7p) for year to Sept 30. Figs in £000. T/over 30,741 (23,292). Grp. trading profit 1,786 (1,771). Surplus on sale of listed investments 884 (1,808). Pretax profit 2,670 (3,579). Tax 756 (851). Extraord dbts.15 (119). Eps 7.4p (11.1p).

● TOPS ESTATES: Rental income for six mths. to Sept. 30, £51,297 (£32,382). Prop. outgoings £3,595 (£7,563). Admin. expenses £6,095 (£4,495). Interest receivable £157 (£137). Interest pay. £12,506 (5,785). Pretax pft £29,258 (£14,676). Tax £11,622 (£4,789). No interim dividend.

● F. AND C. ALLIANCE INVESTMENT: Half-year to Oct 31. Int. 0.55 (0.5pp). The board's present intention is at least to maintain final of 1.1p. Franked income (figs in £000) 437 (452). Gross revenue 1,004 (975). Interest payable 207 (455). Tax 224 (117). Revenue attrib. 410 (295). Eps 0.89p (0.63).

● METALRAX has exchanged contracts for the purchase of G S Smart Co. Smart operates from freehold premises at Moseley Road Birmingham and manufactures metal occasional furniture, garden chairs and tables for sale to mail-order houses. The consideration is £988,400, which will be satisfied by the payment of £688,400 in cash and the issue, credited as fully paid, of 576,923 new ord, shares to the principal vendor.

● SAMUEL PROPERTIES has entered into an agreement to purchase for £3.9m the freehold interests in: 4/7 Chiswell St. London and 153/161, The Broadway Wimbledon, SW19. The board has also entered into an agreement to purchase for £3.1m the freehold interest in Westway House, Greenford, Middlesex.

● SOUTHEND STADIUM has conditionally agreed to purchase H Townsend and Sons (Builders). The consideration will be £240,000 and will be satisfied by the issue of 521,740 new ord. shares in Southend, all of which have been conditionally placed on behalf of the vendors by Southend stockbrokers with various institutions.

C. W. Walker intends to raise about £770,000 net by an underwritten rights issue of new ord shares at 17p per share on a one-for-one basis. The directors have also arranged for one million new ord shares to be placed with investors at 19p per share. The board said that over the past few years trading has been difficult and the company has experienced material losses. Despite improved trading conditions co is still hampered by very high borrowings. The board, therefore, believes that the time is right to raise new capital both to reduce borrowings and to consolidate the group's improved trading prospects.

● R H MORLEY GROUP: No intm. div. (nil). Figs in £000. T/over 1,812 (1.693) for six months to Sept 30. Pretax profit 72 (61). Tax 24 (nil). EPS 2.67p (2.44p). Turnover is rather disappointing due to the fact that the metalworkers' strike in West Germany made the manufacturers alter the timetable for the installation of the new machinery. The new plant is fully operational and has shown a marked improvement in the level of production and the cost of production over the corresponding period of 1983 (November and December). Shares 44p, dn 1p.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150a)	186+4
Addison Comm 2p Ord (116a)	191
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	167+1
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	90
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	116
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	148+8
Gandover Inv 25p Ord (160)	182+1
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	206–5
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	167+2
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	86
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	258
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	235–1
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	118
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	176
PSM Int 25p (140)	169+2
Penny & Giles 25p Ord (130a)	160
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	74
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	200
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	141
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	119
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	124
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	186
Wates City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	117+1
Williams (R) Leisure 5p Ord (20a)	22

Issue price in parentheses. a Unlisted Securities, * by tender.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings †	10¾%
Consolidated Crds	9¾%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co *	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6½%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7½%; £50,000 and over, 8%.



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bowater jumps 19p as fund managers spot the bargain

By Pam Spooner

Bowater Industries, shorn of its American operations, is starting to attract increasing investment interest reflected yesterday in a sharp 19p rise to take the shares to a new peak for the year of 213p.

The company itself was saying it could not find any reason for the sudden upward movement although it has been seeing analysts and must clearly be satisfied that the message is getting through.

Mr Tony Pennie of James Capel has been saying the shares looked interesting since they stood at 150p in the summer and he now thinks the shares are starting to get the re-rating they deserve. "I think fund managers are realizing they still look cheap. The improvement in the economy is starting to work its way through to the packaging and paper sector where all the companies have been performing well."

So is there still plenty of steam left in the Bowater price?" Our target price was 250p," Mr Pennie remarked.

Estimates of Bowater's pretax profits in the curent year – following the opening half's £12.4 million – are up to £39 million and £55 million the year after.

City opinions about **BOC Group** appear divided. A recent meeting with the company has shown two camps among the analysts. One reckons BOC is a dull prospect, but others, such as James Capel and Hoare Govett, are bullish about the shares. Yesterday BOC slipped 3p to 265p.

Meanwhile, **Imperial Chemical Industries** is showing star quality, rising another 6p to 746p. The chemicals giant has shown little respect for the 700p barrier, jumping more than 60p in the past week.

Among brewers **Matthew Brown** provided excitement as the shares put on another 10p to 246p. That makes a two-day gain of 26p and does nothing to dispel market talk of a bid.

Scottish & Newcastle is tipped as the buyer, but its share price held fairly steady at 136½p, down just ½p on the day.

At Matthew Brown no one was willing to comment on the situation, leaving City men confident the company will be the target for S & N expansion in the south.

Grand Metropolitan continued its share price gain ahead of today's figures with a 7p rise to 328p, and there was progress of a few pence for **Boddingtongs Breweries, Greenall Whitley, Greene King** and **Arthur Guinness**.

C H Beazer fired another round in the battle for **Bath & Portland** yesterday, sending out a circular to B&P shareholders asking: "Where are the facts?"

Coalite Group pushed ahead 5p yesterday to another peak of 226p. After recent meetings with the company, stockbrokers are feeling very bullish about the chemicals group. Quilter Goodison is among that number, concurring with the City view that Coalite can make £33 million or more for the current year, against £18.6 million last time.

There is stilll no estimate of profits for the past year, no indication of current trading and no updated asset valuation, Beazer says.

It wants to know particularly whether B&P intends to sell its minerals division – Beazer would retain the division – and why B&P is prepared to sell its controlling interest in Meditech Body Scanner.

B&P shares shrugged off the attack finishing 2p higher at 279p. Beazer also added on 2p to 362p. The Beazer share and cash offer values B&P shares at 236.8p.

Richard Clay, producers of the Mills & Boon books, got a 10p fillip to 103p as speculators moved in on the shares. City chat suggested that Clay could be on the shopping list for buyers in the publishing sector, with asset values underpinning the price. In the last report and accounts net assets per share were priced at over 115p, on an historic cost basis.

Molins, the cigarette paper and packaging engineers, was also on the move in response to bid hopes. The shares rose 2p to 136p, taking them ever closer to their previous annual trading peak of 142p.

DRG also came back into the limelight, rising 5p to 152p. Market observers reckon a sizeable stake has been built up in the company, and would not be surprised to see a 5 per cent holding declared soon. But expectations of a full bid for the producers of Basildon Bond are stil fading into the background.

Lex Service gained ground rapidly yesterday on news that Provident Mutual Life Assurance has taken its holding to just over 5 per cent of the shares. The Lex share price gained 10p to 290p, edging that stock further away from the bottom end of its trading range.

Elsewhere among the motor traders, **British Car Auctions** again made headway. The shares rose 5p to 94p, pulling out of the doldrums in which they have languished in recent months.

Jaguar hit a new price peak as the rising dollar gave investors enthusiasm for the car manufacturers. The shares rose 6p to 228p.

Even **Ford** and **General Motors** managed to pick up pennies – and cents – in the brighter mood for car sales and particularly for dollar earnings.

But **Lucas Industries** is still suffering from bad news about the effect of strikes on the group's sales and current profitability. Shareholders heard the worst from Mr Godfrey Messervy, the chairman at the annual meeting.

Avon Rubber bounced 8p to a new trading peak of 233p, but **Automotive Products** slipped back 1p to 64p.

Prices on the engineering pitches were firm, with **Smith Industries** still enjoying Tuesday's annual statement. The shares gained 7p to 694p.

Westland shares fell apart alongside the poor profits news, dropping 10p to 126p. The helicopter makers has had a tough time in the past year.

Simon Engineering followed the general movement upward, rising 6p to 220p, but **Whessoe** came in for profit-taking after its recent optimistic trading report.

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, keeps a buy tag on shares of Trident Television. Its analyst, Mr Jeffrey Harwood, reckons the leisure group will make £14.5 million in the current year and should continue to outperform the market. Cash balances amount to roughly 60p a share, he notes. The group made just under £13 million of profits in the year to the end of September.

British Aerospace stays on the wing, rising 8p to 378p on continued enthusiasm for earnings prospects. Bid hopes raised **Besfobell** shares 20p to 309p.

Austin Reed, the clothing chain, edged closer to Savile Row tailers Gieves, lifting its share stake to 7.9 per cent from 6.8 per cent. Gieves shares slipped 4p to 76p.

The pound's problems on foreign exchanges unsettled gilts which closed around half a point lower.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● BECORIT (GB): A sub of Steel Brothers Hldgs, has purchased from the liquidators of Robert Hudson (Raletrux), the assets of that co's activities. Robert Hudson is concerned with the manufacture of railed vehicles and effluent treatment plant. The assets incl. the name Robert Hudson (Raletrux), the title to all work-in-progress, working drawings, existing orders, some completed work and the machine tools used to manufacture narrow-gauge railway wheels and axles which are a substantial part of Hudson's railed-vehicle business.

● WESTERN SELECTION: Final 1.7p, mkg. 2.7p (2.5p) for year to Sept 30. Figs. in £000. T/over 6,882 (5,662) Pretax profit 616 (405).

● HAWTIN: results for 12 months to Sept 30 (8 months). Div. 0.375p (0.25p) figs in 000. T/over 16,551 (9,388). Pretax profit 1,086 (606) after interest payable, 303 (194). Tax 879 (511). Minorities nil (3 CDT). Extraord items CDT 3 (DBT 22). EPS 1.62p (0.95) shares 16½p up ¾.

● IRISH ROPES: Dividend 2.1p (1.75p) for year ended Sept 30. Sales IR£27.41m (£IR£25.04m). Profit IR£249.063) before tax of IR£12,304 (£IR13,793).

TSB to spend £8m on sell-off advertising

By Jeremy Warner

Up to £8 million is likely to be set aside by the Trustee Savings banks for spending on a British Telecom-style advertising and promotional campaign in the run up to the 1,624 branch network's £1 billion stock market flotation a year from now.

Dewe Rogerson, the public relations and advertising firm employed to handle the Telecom sale, is handling the flotation marketing, advertising and public relations for TSB.

The firm will act in tandem with J. Walter Thomson, which already handles TSB's customer advertising and is preparing proposals for a press and television corporate campaign.

Mr Miles Colebrook, a director of J. Walter Thomson, said he envisaged a campaign similar to Telecom's "Power Behind the Button" advertising to increase public awareness of the bank and its ambitions.

Such a campaign will cost about £5 million according to reliable outside estimates. On top of that there will advertising, marketing and promotion. The amount Telecom spent on advertising and promotion for its flotation is estimated to have been about £17.5 million.

Mr Anthony Carlisle, a director of Dewe Rogerson, said that one problem the promotional and marketing campaign faced was the distinctive social profile of the TSB's six million customers at whom the offer of shares will be particularly directed.

The firm will be conducting market research into the attitude to the flotation of these customers, the majority of whom have not held shares before.

Mr Carlisle said: "It is fair to say that we will be looking at socio-economic groups which are quite different from those who subscribed for British Telecom shares."

A great deal of promotional activity will be conducted through the TSB's huge branch network.

The TSB's financial advisors, Lazard Brothers may have to build incentives into the offer for sale to ensure that small first time investors do not sell their shares for a quick profit the moment dealings begin on the Stock Exchange.

TEMPUS

Westland puts a brave face on poor sales

Westland's problems were summed up quite aptly in yesterday's preliminary statement which said almost apologetically: "Since the year end the company has received firm orders for two Lynx helicopters and a letter of intent for three Sea Kings." As a company dominated by helicopter manufacturing Westland is simply not selling enough of them.

Yesterday's figures only amplified Westland's misery. Pretax profits of £26 million last year slumped to £16.8 million. They fell further after the inclusion of a £14 million exceptional item and the attributable profit was transformed into a loss once extraordinary items of £5.7 million had been accounted for.

The company was forced to make a £11 million transfer from its development reserve in order to cover the dividend.

The profit and loss account is not a pretty sight. With earnings per share of only 1.9p before extraordinary items, compared to 32.4p last year, it was therefore surprising that Westland's management was not more concerned.

Instead it put on a brave face and talked optimistically about future orders for helicopters. Sadly the company needs more than just talk it needs to see hard cash in the bank. Borrowings rose from about £20 million to £60 million and the 50 per cent gearing now looks a little unwieldly.

Despite the progress which is being made in the group's other activities, the technologies group saw profits rise from £7.2 million to £10.2 million, it is the helicopters which hold the key to the company's future. The civil market is taking much longer to mature than had been expected and while the Westland product is excellent the infrastructure which could provide a source of sales does not yet exist. The need for civil helicopters is still restricted.

With military spending somewhat restricted at the moment there is no immediate prospect of any abatement of Westland's problems from that source. However, the Government is planning to announce a big order next year and Westland is in the running to win it.

The story of the shares therefore remains one of speculation about the prospects of future orders. They closed down 10p to 126p on the results but it is a share only for the brave at the moment.

Crystalate Holdings

The results of Crystalate Holdings are confused by the acquisition of Royal Worcester last December and the sale 10 months later of the china and ceramic interests.

Pretax profits in the year to September 30 were 76 per cent ahead at £5.66 million, but nearly £2 million was contributed by china. However, china also accounted for about £800,000 of additional interest costs, so the basic electronic business made £4.5 milion pretax.

Welwyn Electronics, the part of Royal Worcester that Crystalate kept, pushed ahead strongly making £2 million in the 10 months, indicating a downturn in the existing Crystalate businesses to £2.5 million from £3.2 million. British Telecom's changed buying pattern was the culprit.

In a pre-privatization squeeze it invoked the clause in its contract which allowed it to leave Crystalate with three months stock and a three-month delay in payment instead of instant take-up of orders. Besson, the Crystalate division making telphones, had its margins eroded and the effects are expected to continue into January to February.

Welwyn's profits and sales continue to improve, so there should still be a useful profits advance this year.

The shares fell 28p to 245p on disappointment that profits were not higher. The price-earnings ratio is 14 on an exceptionally low 30 per cent tax charge and is unlikely to come down much this year as the tax charge will go up to 40 per cent.

The results have doubly underlined the shrewdiness of the Worcester acquisition – a fat profit on the china sales and Welwyn making the running on the electronics side. It is to be hoped the next acquisition comes soon, before a predator is attracted to a company capitalized at £55.5 million sitting on cash of more than £20 million.

Crystalate is looking for acquisitions in the electronics sector, but has nothing in its sights.

Bairstow Eves

Bairstow Eves, Britain's first publicly-quoted estate agent is going for a £6.8 million rights issue to continue its expansionist policy in the house selling business. It is a business which Bairstow is finding highly profitable.

The secret of the company's success lies in the volume of sales it achieves through its network of 100 offices. Part of the rights issue will be devoted to increasing the number of offices and widening its geographical spread in the direction of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. And more small firms of estate agents are likely to be swept into the Bairstow Eves network before long.

The other part of the company's attack on the residential market is in the fast-growing field of financial services. Bairstow bought Peter Rainbow and Associates, the financial services company for £1.89 million at the beginning of this year, but it is only now becoming aware of the huge potential that this acquistion can offer.

Bairstow expects this part of its business to contribute 20 per cent of profits in the coming year.

With house prices in the South east rising at about 10 to 15 per cent a year, Bairstow will want to increase the fee content of its business by that amount. The building societies are awash with money so the future for the residential estate agent is looking rosy. There will be opportunities for Bairstow to pick up some of the smaller agencies who could not obtain a flotation on their own account.

The company is forecasting that earnings per share for 1984 will see a 31 per cent rise over last year. And the board is recommending a final dividend of 0.805p per share. It expects the 1985 dividend to be 1.8p a share on the enlarged share capital after the rights issue on a one-for-three basis at 64p. If that comes about shareholders will see a 24 per cent increase over this year's dividend. The shares stood at 80p. They were first offered to the public at 46p in 1982.

Joint venture for Shipley and Imperial Life

By Richard Thomson

Brown Shipley, the merchant bank, and Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada look set to launch a joint enterprise in the retail fund management sector. Brown Shipley is taking a 50 per cent stake in Laurentian Investment, Imperial Life's licensed dealer subsidiary. The company will be relaunched next April under the same name, with £24 million under management.

Laurentian Investment will specialize in private client portfolio investment, accepting a minimum amount of £10,000. It will exist in parallel to Brown Shipley's unit trusts and pension funds, and to Imperial Life's managed funds.

Opax offers £21m for Causton

By Alison Eadie

Norton Opax, the security and specialist printer which last week bought Fleet Holdings' 21.6 per cent stake in Sir Joseph Causton, has made a £21 million offer for the whole company.

Causton the printer and publisher, put out a holding statement neither recommending nor rejecting the offer. The two companies have had talks, but Causton is still undecided because it did not want to be delayed by the Christmas holidays.

The share offer of four Norton shares for five Causton, values Causton at 124.8p at yesterday's closing prices of Causton up 15p at 121p and Norton unchanged at 156p. Norton bought the stake from Fleet for 95p a share. There is a cash alternative at 110.4p

Norton Opax has grown fast through acquisitions in the last 18 months, since its abortive bid for John Waddington.

There is speculation that Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCC, fresh from its second defeat at Waddington's hands, may yet again jump in on an attempted Norton Opax takeover.

Zanussi approves Swedish takeover

From John Earl, Rome

Electrolux's takeover of Zanussi has been approved after long negotiations to general satisfaction by a special meting of the Italian company's shareholders at its headquarters at Pordenone. And from the new year the problems for the new Swedish parent of what was once Europe's biggest manufacturer of white domestic appliances are likely to begin.

Had it not been for the rescue, Zanussi's chances of survival were doubtful. It lost L130 billion (£58 million) in 1983, and the company admits continuing losses this year. The Zanussi family never applied for a stock exchange listing as a remedy for the under-capitalization that initially was the course of its troubles, but relied on bank borrowing, as a result of which a $560 million rescheduling package was only negotiated with difficulty with foreign and Italian creditor banks.

Electrolux says it is prepared to invest about L500 billion (£225 million) in the next three years to get Zanussi on its feet. Signor Gian Maria Rossignoli, the 54-year-old chairman it put in, is starting work on a reorganzation plan

The Zanussi family, which founded a backyard group making wood-fired cookers in 1916, has been quietly removed, though Signor Gianfranco Zoppas, last chairman and husband of one of the Zanussi daughters, has been made chairman of a subsidiary, Zanussi Grandi Impianti.

The main shareholders now are Electrolux, with 49.04 per cent (and an option subsequently to increase this to 75 per cent, mainly through taking up a special convertible bond issue), the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region and Crediop, each 8.17 per cent. Others have smaller amounts, including the Zanussi family, left with 2.88 per cent.

A key attitude will be that of the Italian unions, which have greeted with mixed feelings the passage of control into foreign hands. They will be suspicious of any attempt under the reorganization plan to cut the workforce further – from the current 19,800 (32,000 some years ago).

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Timidity at Treasury will not force silence on the wets

By Tim Congdon

Reflation, the battle cry of Tory dissidents, is still not the answer

The "wets" in the Conservative Party, and their many admirers in the other parties, came to the end of what they have to say about economics three of four years ago. Unfortunately, they have found it impossible to stop.

Their views on economic management have become tediously familiar. In essence, they want the Government to "do something" and, since they *cannot think of governments* doing anything else, they want it to spend more money.

This recommendation is made to sound more sophisticated by being labelled "fiscal reflation". It is to be accomplished by increasing public sector investment and expanding the budget deficit. The idea seems to be that the larger budget deficit will increase demand in the economy, promoting output and employment.

The debate about reflation has lasted at least a decade and has become very boring. So it is tiresome that the counter-arguments need to be restated once again. But, if the reflationists apparently think they can win by repeating themselves often enough, they should not be surprised if they are answered in the same way.

The main objection to reflation is that, if the Government adheres to a non-inflationary monetary policy, the extra government spending has to be financed by sales of gilt-edged securities rather than by monetary expansion. Official gilt sales encroach on the nation's savings pool, putting upward pressure on interest rates.

Higher interest rates discourage private sector spending, partly because consumers borrow less and partly because companies have a weaker incentive to invest. Private sector expenditure is crowded out by increased public sector expenditure, not necessarily by the same amount but enough to make the whole exercise futile as a means of invigorating demand.

Servicing involves higher interest payments in future years.

Unhappily, interest payments on the debt themselves represent more government spending. The result is a further increase in the budget deficit, which adds to the national debt.

As ex-finance ministers from Argentina and Bolivia could testify, the only ultimate beneficiaries of this miserable process are dealers in government debt and printers of banknotes. Output and employment collapse when serious efforts are made to sort out the mess.

Fiscal reflation, like alcohol, is doubtfully effective in the short run as a stimulant and in the long run acts as a depressant of the worst possible kind. Since these truths were recognized in Britain in the mid-1970s, the ratio of the public sector borrowing requirement to gross domestic product has been reduced from over 10 per cent to about 2.5 per cent.

The reflationists have to concede that a large budget deficit cannot be reconciled with low inflation for ever. Nevertheless, they can retain credibility by urging a relatively short period of calculated irresponsibility in which the PSBR is deliberately kept above its desirable long-run level.

By this means, they might argue, a phase of rapid growth would be generated. The growth would be unsustainable, but it would at least bring some of the unemployed back into work. At the appropriate moment fiscal prudence could be restored, reducing the PSBR and keeping inflation under control.

The difficulty with this proposal is that it assumes a benign cleverness and foresight in governments which financial markets do not believe them to possess. If the Chancellor were to announce that the PSBR is to be increased by 2 per cent of GDP for the next three years, but that afterwards it is to return to the level previously planned, very few holders of government debt would trust him.

To compensate for the extra riskiness of gilt-edged securities, the Treasury would have to pay higher interest rates on new issues. As we have seen, a spendthrift government can find itself overwhelmed by debt servicing costs if the budget deficit is excessive. The danger is exaggerated and made more immediate the higher are interest rates.

The Chancellor has done sadly little to strengthen financial confidence

Is this consideration a compelling argument against fiscal reflation in Britain in 1984? Because of the relatively good housekeeping of recent years it is less compelling than in many other countries. In Italy interest on the national debt is almost 15 per cent of national income whereas in Britain it is under 5 per cent.

But the constraint still remains relevant. According to the Autumn Statement one of the reasons for the slippage on the 1984/85 PSBR target is that interest rates, and hence interest payments on the national debt, were under-estimated at Budget time. A substantial increase in public sector investment would undoubtedly have a further damaging effect on debt servicing costs.

There is another, more specific problem with Britain's public sector finances over the next few years. North Sea tax revenues are likely to peak in 1985/86 at about £12 billion. No one knows for certain how much they will fall thereafter, but it is conceivable that they will be down to £8 billion by 1987/88, the last complete financial year before the next general election.

Significant fiscal reflation would be risky, not just because of what it would do to the PSBR in 1985-86 but also because of the repercussions in later years. If the PSBR were £10 billion next year instead of the £7 billion envisaged in the medium-term financial strategy, it might threaten to reach £15 billion by 1987-88. The struggle to control it would not be politically enjoyable for Mr Lawson.

In fact, when allowance is made for asset sales and North Sea revenues, fiscal policy – as measured by the cyclically-adjusted PSBR – has been more or less neutral since 1982-83. The PSBR is manageable at present thanks largely to the buoyancy of North Sea tax receipts.

Were these receipts to decline sharply after large schemes of public sector investment had been initiated, the Government could find itself in an awkward situation as the next election approached. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the theoretical controversy over reflation, there are some obvious political disadvantages in proceeding with it now.

These may not bother the wets, but they ought to trouble Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues.

The task of fiscal control is eased if the Government enjoys financial confidence, because this leads to more moderate inflation expectations and lower interest rates. Low interest rates reduce the interest payment element in public expenditure. This point is far from trivial when real interest rates are twice the historical norm.

In his first 18 months as Chancellor, Mr Lawson has done sadly little to strengthen financial confidence. In his 1983 Mansion House speech he referred to price stability as an "eventual" objective, but the remark has since been more or less forgotten.

This is not surprising as this year's Budget was pathetic in its programme for inflation (to decline from 4.75 per cent in 1984/85 to 3.5 per cent in 1987/86) and feeble in its projections for the PSBR (to drop from 2.25 per cent of GDP in 1984/85 to 1.75 per cent in 1987/88).

The Autumn Statement, admitting that the PSBR in 1984/85 might be above target, and the Chancellor's recent willingness to speculate about tax cuts in 1985/86, have not increased respect for the Government's financial determination. It will be a pity if their initial failure to set bold targets leaves Treasury ministers constantly and unreservedly on the defensive in their debates with the wets.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L Messel & Co

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Peel turns industrial relics into profits

"Waste not, want not" is an adage traditionally applied to thrifty northerners. It admirably sums up the chairman of Peel Holdings, Mr John Whittaker, whose farming background in Lancashire may well have contributed to his determination to wring every ounce of profit from seemingly valueless assets.

Derelict mill buildings around Rochdale, relics of the once booming cotton industry, provide Peel Holdings with a handy source of income and provide the solid base for its expansionist and highly successful retail developments programme.

Peel has more than 550,000 sq ft of retail space in out-of-town superstores and has just purchased another such venture.

The company's strength lies in its ability to obtain pre-lets on its retail development through the expertise of Mr Peter Jevans, who runs the company's retail division.

His skills, applied to Oriel Foods, Key Markets and Abbeygate Markets, will no doubt be brought to bear on Peel's latest acquisition, Bridgewater Estates. Peel's £18 million share offer for the company, is nearly complete with 90 per cent of acceptances due this week.

The acquisition enables Peel to reduce its gearing from 86 per cent to 50 per cent and to expand its equity base.

The dilution of assets per share resulting from the Bridgewater bid should be offset by the rise in the value of its retail portfolio and it does mean the company can go ahead with more acquisitions.

The value of the portfolio rose from just under £7 million to over £46 million between March 1982 and 1984.

This was partly due to injection of Largs' property interests into the Peel portfolio, Largs being the holding company for Peel, but also to the ability of Mr Whittaker and his team to spot potentially lucrative retail opportunities ahead of the field.

However, Mr Whittaker does admit that the phenomenal growth rate the company has experienced may be more difficult to sustain in the future.

But the Bridgewater portfolio, comprising 9,000 acres of predominantly agricultural land, could have some plums ripe for the picking.

Mr Whittaker expects Bridgewater to contribute £600,000 in pretax profits for the full year. It means that Peel's high dividend policy can be maintained as assets will no longer have to be sold off to meet the cost. The high divident policy is there to deter raiders.

Brokers are predicting that the company's pretax profits for the year to March will be about £1.8 million. Mr Whittaker will not be drawn. He says he likes to keep something back, if only to keep a step ahead of the market.

And Peel itself will have to keep ahead of the market having established a success rate that is now built into its share rating.

New town's decision day

● **The future of Redditch New Towns's commercial and industrial assets could well be decided tomorrow. An important meeting involving new town officials and the Department of the Environment is due to take place tonight and it is likely that a decision will be made on which bid will be accepted for the assets. There are two contenders: the American Harbison Group, a property consortium, and the Tarmac Group with the Globe and Electra Investment Trusts.**

Redditch decided to sell its town centre separately so it will not be included in the package on offer and rented housing will be transferred to the local council.

Redditch town centre is being bought by the two lessees, Commercial Union Assurance and the Shell Pension Fund. The price is likely to be revealed tomorrow.

● Mr John Newman, director of Robert Fleming Properties which manages the portfolio of the Fleming Property Unit Trust, looks about to join London & Edinburgh Trust, the property development and investment company run by Mr Peter and Mr John Beckwith.

Mr Newman's appointment would give LET valuable experience on the property investment side.

● **London & Metropolitan Estates has been given planning consent for an American-style food court in its Princess Square shopping centre at Bracknell, Berkshire. The court, to be called The Terrace, will be developed by London & Metropolitan and the Abbey Property Fund on the first floor of the centre.**

The letting agents are Bernard Thorpe & Partners, Healey & Baker and Clive Lewis & Partners.

Judith Huntley

CRICKET: ENGLAND TAME EAST ZONE SPINNERS

Fowler underlines case with sparkling century

Gauhati (Reuter) – An exciting century by Graeme Fowler put England on top on the first day of their four-day match against East Zone here yesterday. At the close, England were 277 for eight, with French, the reserve wicket-keeper, unbeaten on 13, and Foster on 14.

On a wicket which showed distinct signs of turn, Fowler's batting partners had difficulty coping with the East Zone's spin attack.

The match was watched by a sparse crowd of barely 2,000. The stadium in the capital of Assam, India's troubled north-eastern state, was closely guarded by mounted policemen and every spectator was subject to a strict security check.

Scoreboard

England: First innings

G Fowler c sub b Kumar	114
M D Moxon c Jayaprakash b Doshi	35
A J Lamb b Jayaprakash	23
*M W Gatting c Lal b Kumar	37
C S Cowdrey st Deora b Jayaprakash	9
V J Marks b Kumar	7
P H Edmunds run out	6
P R Downton c Dubey b Kumar	3
† B N French not out	13
N A Foster not out	14
Extras (b5, l-b5, w3, n-b2)	15
Total (8 wkts)	277

N G Cowans to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–85, 2–119, 3–180, 4–193, 5–220, 6–243, 7–248, 8–251, 9–.

BOWLING: Singh 8-1-19-0, Sinha 8-1-37-0 Doshi 34-5-82-1 Kumar 35-13-76-4 Jayaprakash 11-0-53-2.

EAST ZONE: *D R Doshi, † R Deora, Arun Lal, K Dubey, A Mitra, A Das, A Bharadwa, A Jayaprakash, A Sinha, A Kumar, Randhir Singh.

If the atmosphere was subdued, Fowler was not. He savaged a weak East Zone attack, scoring 11 fours and a six, before being caught off Avinash Kumar for 114.

Moxon, Fowler's rival to open the England batting with Robinson in the Third Test at Calcutta, made a confident and aggresive 36 in only his second match of the tour.

Gatting, deputizing as captain for Gower, scored a brisk 37 before falling to a smart catch by Arun Lal, being caught at slip, slashing at a rising ball from Kumar. Gower and Robinson are on a tiger safari in the western desert state of Rajasthan.

From a healthy 180 for three, England slipped to 251 for eight as Kumar, who finished with four for 76, and his fellow spin bowler Asjit Jayaprakash (two for 53) rifled the middle order. Only Fowler appeared to have Jayaprakash well in hand, hitting him for three consecutive and demoralizing fours, but he was more respectful of Dilip Doshi, the veteran Test spinner.

When Fowler left, French and Foster put on a valuable unbeaten partnership of 26 to re-assert England's dominance.

Assam, troubled by a campaign by ethnic Assamese for the eviction of Moslem settlers from neighbouring Bangladesh, is normally out of bounds to foreigners, and journalists have been asked to concentrate only on the cricket.



Fowler: fine innings

Kapil Dev might enter politics

Kapil Dev, the Indian all-rounder dropped from the Indian squad after their defeat by England in the second Test, is thinking of going into politics.

Kapil Dev said he supported the country's ruling Congress (I) party and would be joining it later. He urged all sportsmen to support the *Congress (I) and said it* was the only party which could field "a full team of its own".

Kapil Dev's announcement comes just before the country goes to the polls on Sunday.

Boon: flying home

Boon breaks leg in car crash

Tim Boon, Leicestershire's promising young batsman, is in hospital with a badly broken leg following a car crash in Durban, South Africa, and may miss the start of the English season.

Boon, aged 22, has had an operation to pin his thigh and will fly home from his coaching job as soon as he is fit enough to travel.

Boon only established himself in the Leicestershire side last season, passing 1,000 runs for the first time and hitting three centuries.

W Indies ease home as Baptiste cuts loose

Echuca, Victoria (Reuter) – Eldine Baptiste, the all-rounder omitted from the West Indies side for the first three Tests against Australia, smashed an agressive 75 here yesterday to set up an easy win against a Victorian Country XI.

The West Indians scored 279 for nine in their 50 overs and restricted the Country XI to 215 for four, to win by 64 runs.

Baptiste hit five sixes and four fours off only 48 balls in his 62-minute stay at the crease.

One of his sixes soared out of the ground, bounced in the road and landed in the front yard of a nearby house. Richards, the West Indians' acting captain, badly out of form in the Test series, hit a swift 28 with two fours and two sixes before he was caught in the deep attempting another giant six.

West Indies went into the match without their captain, Lloyd, the fast bowler Holding and opening batsman Greenidge. Holding, who strained a rib cartilage in the second Test, is recovering slowly and may miss the final two tests

Garner and Marshall, the main strike bowlers, bowled only nine overs between them, which helped the home batsmen make a spirited if ultimately unsuccesful reply. Steve Bray was the local hero with a courageous unbeaten 96, including eight fours and seven sixes.

The West Indians' batting thrilled a crowd of 8,000, and their assistant team manager, Cammie Smith, a member of the 1960-61 West Indian tourists, said later the side looked forward to the country matches.

VICTORIAN COUNTRY XI First Innings

L Rosenow c Baptiste b Harper	25
D Bice c Richards b Marshall	1
K Chapman c Harper b Payne	20
W Walsh c Payne b Richards	19
S Bray not out	96
M Gardner not out	27
Extras (b 10, lb 7, w 9, nb 1)	27
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs)	215

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–8, 2–53, 3–59, 4–111.

BOWLING: Garner 5-2-11-0, Marshall 4-2-13-1, Harper 10-2-18-1, Payne 10-3-21-1, Gomes 9-1-43-0, Richards 10-3-61-1, Logie 2-0-31-0 (no balls and wides debited to bowlers). END END END

WEST INDIES: First Innings

D L Haynes c Gardner b McDonald	48
R B Richardson c Bray b Turner	28
A L Logie c and b Turner	5
T R O Payne c and b Turner	11
P J Dujon b Lenyon	34
T V A Richards c Walsh b Lenyon	28
M D Marshall c Gardner b McDonald	16
E A E Baptiste c Lenyon b Shawcross	75
R A Harper run out	1
H A Gomes not out	20
J Garner not out	4
Extras (b 4, lb 3, w 1)	8
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	279

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–46, 2-64, 3-82, 4-117, 5-151, 6-164, 7-184, 8-186, 9-275.

BOWLING: Shawcross 10-1-67-1, Turner 10-0-46-3, Denham 9-1-52-0, McDonald 10-0-41-2. Lenyon 10-0-60-2, Rosenow 1-0-6-0.

Women's first

Adelaide (Reuter) – England women won their first one-day game in Australia here yesterday, beating South Australia by seven runs in a thrilling finish. England scored 130 all out in 55.4 overs and South Australia could manage only 123 for eight in their 60 overs. Chris Watmough hit 46 for England and Gill McConway took three wickets for 21.

SCORES: England 130 (C Watmough 46; L A H Hunter 4 for 7). South Australia 123 for 8.

SQUASH RACKETS

Beeson included in England squad

By Colin McQuillan

The story-book advance of the previously unrated Bryan Beeson to the final of the InterCity British championship, at Sheffield, appeard concluded when he was overpowered by Geoff Williams, the top seed. But it seems that the smiling 24-year-old Gateshead Hospital technician has tapped a main vein of dream fulfilment.

Today he is named in the England squad for the Home International series in Belfast early next month and it looks likely that his hopes for a professional breakthrough are also to be answered. InterCity themselves were so impressed with Beeson's humorous and sporting progress through their first national championships, they are thinking of underwriting a change to full-time squash for the man who needed three days emergency leave to compete at Sheffield.

Beeson's rise to form came from his increasingly competitive performances in the American Express Premier League. It is also significant, that, although Armley were not in the field this week, most of Beeson's England colleagues were again prominent against powerful league opposition.

Williams himself displayed the confidence of a new champion, destroying the world No 4, Stuart Davenport, in straight games to lead the 5-0 rout of Tyrells by Manchester Northern. His second string, David Pearson, forced Phil Kenyon into ignominous retirement when within four points of a similar victory. Martin Bodimeade defeated the talented Egyptian, Hesham El Attar, to complete the 5-0 victory for Cannons over Redwood Lodge. David Lloyd is still recovering from the atack of mumps that took him out of the national championship, but his Edgbaston Priory team still managed a 3–2 win over Nottingham.

ENGLAND SQUAD: G Williams, D Lloyd, B Beeson, A Naylor, D Pearson, M Bodimeade.

AMERICAN EXPRESS PREMIER LEAGUE: Manchester Northern 5, Tyrells (Southampton) 0; Edgbaston Priory 3, Nottingham 2; Cannons (London) 5, Redwood Lodge (Bristol) 0. Positions: 1, Manchester Northern 47pts; 2, Cannons 39; 3, Squash Leicester 37; 4, Edgbaston Priory 36; 5, Tyrells 27; 6 Nottingham 23; 7 Armley (Leeds) 22; 8 Redwood Lodge 13; 9 Dunnings Mill (East Grinstead) 8.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Threat of ban to Soviet pair

Moscow (AFP) – The Soviet weightlifters, Anatoly Pisarenko and Alexander Kurlovich, may be thrown out of e Soviet team after being fined in Canada for possessing unauthorised anabolic steroids worth more than $10,000 (around £8,500).

A Soviet federation spokesman said Pisarenko, the world open champion, and his fellow super heavyweight, Kurlovich, would definitely face "punishment"

The federation will also consider the future of two other Soviet weightlifters, Yuri Tokarev and Vadim Popov, who were refused entry into Finland this month when 800 hormone pills were found among their belongings.

Miss Hardcastle cuts down on revelry

Long days for an overnight success

Becoming Britain's most successful swimmer in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles has transformed the life of Sarah Hardcastle, the 15-year-old Southend schoolgirl. Since she won silver and bronze medals in the 400 and 800 metres freestyle events, she has been bombarded with invitations to open new swimming pools and attend sporting functions.

Becoming an overnight success has brought big problems, and both her swimming coach and her headmaster have appealed to Sarah to cut back drastically on her social engagements. Mike Higgs, her coach, was concerned that she would not be at her peak for the Europa Cup in Norway last weekend, while her headmaster thinks too many late nights will affect her performance in the classroom – she is in the middle of taking mock 'O' level exams.

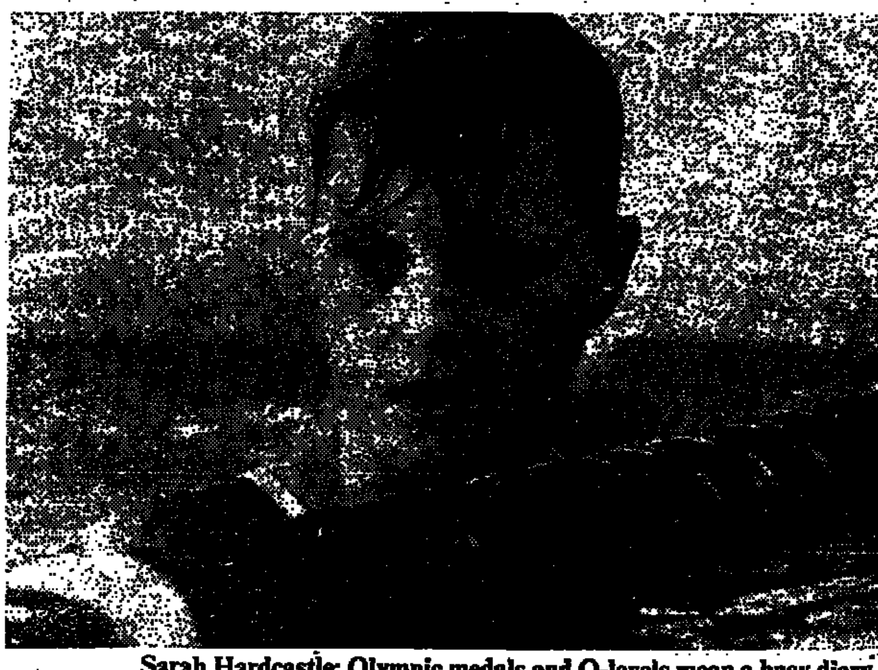
"Sarah deserves to revel in her success", said Higgs, "but I think it's time to cut down and I've asked her to reduce her social commitments to weekends only."

Sarah's father, Jeff Hardcastle, has had to take on the duties of his daughter's driver and social secretary – and he admits to "overbooking".

Recently he drove Sarah to Blackpool for training with the English team; on to Nuneaton, where she was competing for Essex in the Inter-Counties championships and finally to Barnet, where Sarah was guest of honour at the local swimming club – a 700-mile round trip in one day.

Sarah's daily schedule would win the gold dedication – up at five every morning, at the pool in Southend by six, to swim non-stop for two hours. She completes 250 lengths – almost six miles. Then off to school at Shoeburyness Comprehensive for 8.45 a.m. By four o'clock she is back in the pool for another two hours, under the critical eye of Mike Higgs. One of Britain's top coaches, Higgs trained Jackie Willmott to international success, before he guided Sarah. He is a hard taskmaster but knows if she is to become the best in the world she must keep working.

"Sarah swam brilliantly in Los Angeles – above all our expectations," Higgs said, "but it has been something of an anti-climax since the Olympics. All athletes have a down after a supreme test like that."



Sarah Hardcastle: Olympic medals and O-levels mean a busy diary

Sarah has also suffered injury problem since returning from the United States. She has had a knee operation and an ear infection. "She's had to miss a lot of training and is only now getting back into the strict routine of 12 miles swimming a day" Higgs said. "It's damned hard work and with all the extra outside pressures, plus her 'O' levels, sometimes it's difficult to motivate her."

Sarah is enjoying the new glamorous side to her life – but she can see the drawbacks. "I love receiving the invitations and seeing my picture in the papers but I must admit I'm getting very tired. The mornings are impossible and mum and dad do have trouble in getting me out of bed! But we've agreed to cut down and I'm in bed by 8.30 p.m. in the week."

Sarah admits, too, that her involvement in swimming has had an adverse effect on her school work. "I've lost so much time that I'm not very hopeful of passing many 'O' levels," she said. "But one advantage of all the boring training is that it gives me the chance to learn my vocabulary in my head." And that could be useful later, as Sarah plans to become a journalist when she gives up swimming.

Her immediate objectives are the European championships next year and the World championships in 1986.

So, just how far can Sarah go? "Oh, right to the top," Mike Higgs said without hesitation. "She definitely wasn't at her peak in the Europa Cup and yet she still managed to win silver medals in the 400 and 800 metres freestyle. There's no doubt she has the ability and dedication to be a world champion."

If and when that day comes, Sarah can kiss goodbye to early nights.

Michael Field

MOTOR SPORT

Le Mans classic could be at end of the road

Le Mans (Reuter) – The Le Mans 24-hour endurance race may have been staged for the last time. The organizers said yesterday that the race was facing serious financial problems because of lower attendances and heavy taxes, and, according to Jean-Marc Desnus, a race official, next year's race, scheduled for June 16-17, was in serious jeopardy.

The organizers had asked for financial backing from the local authorities, he said, because local companies, who pay taxes to the authorities, made about £40m each year from the event.

"If we do not get a positive response by December 31, the 53rd edition of the race will not be held", Desnus said. Attendances have dropped from a record 160,000 in 1967 to 70,000 last year.

Desnus said the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, the race organizers, were breaking even with the event despite higher taxes. A government levy on each ticket, for example, had increased six-fold in the last 20 years.



But he said the organizers could not pay the £850,000 needed for maintenance and modernization of the circuit in order to keep up with safety rules.

The regional council said it had agreed to take over the maintenance costs, but the Le Mans city council, blaming the ACO for poor managing, said they wanted to control the organization of the race.

Desnus said ACO was ready to give the circuit's facilities to the local authorities, but would never relinquish their authority over the race. With the Monaco Grand Prix and the Monte Carlo Rally still under a cloud, the loss of the Le Mans race would be a considerable blow to the world of motor sport.



Helping hand: Dianne Dahlmo, of Norway, sends her team-mate, Anette Boe, on her way during the 4 x 5 kilometre World Cup Nordic skiing relay race in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday. The Norwegian quartet won.

UNITED NATIONS BLACKLIST

Rebuke for England over S African tour

The entire English rugby union squad which went to South Africa last summer – including Ron Jacobs, the tour manager and Derek Morgan the team manager – has been named in the latest United Nations Centre Against Apartheid "blacklist", published yesterday.

The English Union comes in for severe criticism in the "Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa", while the Commonwealth Games Council for England is rebuked for not taking effective measures in trying to stop the tour.

The speed with which the South African athlete, Zola Budd, was granted British citizenship to enable her to complete at the Olympic Games is also discussed in the document. It says: "Although several countries have helped to provide passports of convenience for South African athletes, the United Kingdom has been outstanding on this issue."

It adds, in a footnote: "Zola Budd has since resumed her South African citizenship, thereby causing great embarrassment to her promoters in the United Kingdom."

Paul Downton, Richard Ellison and Martyn Moxon, currently on England's tour to India, are among 23 English cricketers identified by the South African Cricket Union as having played and/or coached in South Africa during the winter season, although 66 cricketers are reported to have been there. The others are not listed.

The list of golfers, including Gordon Brand Jr, David Feherty, Warren Humphreys, Mark James and Nick Job, stretches to 34, while the organizers of Henley Regatta are picked out in the report for having allowed two South African crews to compete in the regatta.

The "blacklist" is largely ineffective unless a country operating a strict anti-apartheid policy refuses to allow a British sportsman to compete in that country.

In an introduction to yesterday's list, the report says: "The most serious violation of the United Nations resolutions against apartheid in sport was committed by the English Rugby Union when it decided, by 44 votes to six, to send its national team to South Africa.

"There was widespread opposition to the tour, despite all appeals the team, although badly depleted in strength by withdrawals, including that of the team captain, Peter Wheeler, toured South Africa in May and June.

"The Commonwealth Games Council for England also failed in its constitutional obligation under the code of conduct of the Commonwealth Games Federation by not taking effective measures in trying to prevent the tour."

IN BRIEF

Decision on kick-off is in Hull's favour

The consultative committee of the Rugby League Council yesterday decided in favour of Hull when they were asked to adjudicate on the timing of the kick-off for a Boxing Day fixture at Featherstone (Keith Macklin writes). The home side, Featherstone Rovers, requested permission for a morning kick-off at 11.30, but the committee ruled against the request since Hull wanted to adhere to the original kick-off time of 3.30. For a kick-off time to be changed both teams have to agree.

RUGBY UNION: Steve Smith, the former England captain, replaces the injured Nigel Melville at scrum half for the Northern Division's match against Romania at Birkenhead Park on December 29. Melville has his right leg in a metal brace to protect the ligaments and will probably miss England's game against the tourists at Twickenham on January 5.

ROWING: Chris Baillieu, one of Britain's most outspoken oarsmen in an international career lasting more than a decade, has been given the chance to play a direct part in rowing administration with his election as a Henley Royal Regatta steward. Baillieu regards his election as a great honour. "I have always felt that Henley has a unique part to play in Britain's sporting heritage. It is the only event of its type and it is worth preserving."

ATHLETICS: A total of 59 countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States, have so far confirmed their presence at the first world indoor championships at the Bercy Sports Arena in Paris on January 18 and 19. The Americans and Soviets, with 30 and 21 competitors, will have the biggest teams with the latter, absent from Los Angeles, intending to send some of their top competitors.

TENNIS: Kelvin Belcher, a "lucky loser" in the South Australian open tournament in Melbourne, will play his qualifying round conqueror, Huub van Boeckel, of The Netherlands, in the second round following his victory yesterday over Britain's Colin Dowdeswell. Belcher beat Dowdeswell 7-5, 6-3 having been readmitted to the tournament when a knee injury forced out his American compatriot Bill Scanlon.

● Sally Reeves played her way through both quarter-finals and semi-finals of the Sunsilk Christmas tournament at the David Lloyd Centre. After defeating Sally Timms, of Essex, 6-4, 7-5, the Kent player proved too sharp for the No 1 seed, Rina Einy of Middlesex, winning 7-5, 6-2.

SKIING: Heavy snowfalls in Sante Catarina yesterday forced organizers of the World Cup to cancel a training run for competitors in a women's downhill race scheduled for tomorrow. Organizers said about 40 centimetres of snow had fallen since 7pm on Tuesday in Santa Catarina, near Italy's border with Switzerland and Austria. Two men's downhill races in nearby Bormoi, scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday, have already been cancelled because of lack of snow.

MOTOR RACING

Ruling lifts Tyrrell team

Ken Tyrrell was yesterday celebrating the Paris court ruling which lifted the World championship ban on his formula one team. Tyrrell told a press conference in London: "I feel a little cleaner".

A French civil court on Tuesday lifted the ban pending the outcome of a court case, expected to last several months, between Tyrrell and the International Motor Sport Federation (Fisa).

The ruling means that the Tyrrell team regain their 13 championship points rom last season, a £293,000 grant is saved, and sponsorship prospects are likely to improve.

Tyrrell said it was fortunate tha the dispute had not affected the world championship. "All this is happening in the close season, the sport remains relatively free of problems. We are now part of the way to sorting it out".

Tyrell said he did not know when the case would come to court, but he hopd things might be sorted out first. And he said wearily: "We don't really need all this law, it's not the way to go motor racing it it"?

Surveys sought in fight to save fish

By Conrad Voss Bark



The decline of wild fish stocks in Yorkshire and Lancashire rivers may well be due to a killer chemical used by dairy farmers to sterilize their equipment. This has come to light in a survey carried out by Lancaster University for the Lune and Wyre Fishery Association.

University scientists discovered lethal levels of chlorine in the June, most of it from dairy farms which use sodium hypochlorite, and on one dairy farm levels of one and two parts in a million were recorded in a beck used as a drain.

The report says that this is well above lethal levels for fish. There are 180 registered dairy farms in the Lune valley and if only 10 per cent of the chemical they use every day reaches the river then it is likely that during times when the river is low the levels of chlorine may well be sufficiently high to damage mature fish, kill fish fry, and discourage salmon migrating up the river.

The fishery association is sending the report to government ministers and others, urging immediate action to reduce to government ministers and others, urging immediate action to reduce or neutralize the amount of sodium hypochlorite in use and they will also be asking other fishing clubs to sponsor scientific surveys in others parts of the country.

Pollution by other chemicals – fertilizers, weed killers, and aerial pollution from acid rain – have caused the death of an untold number of fish fry and even mature fish in recent years.

No one has been able to establish how many fish have died, but it could run into many millions. Some of the chemical pollutants – nitrates from farm fertilizers, for example – are also harmful to humans and are particularly poisonous to young children, but the British government is still refusing to accept and EEC directive to reduce the level of nitrates in drinking water.

GOLF

Bigger prizes for Scots

Scotland's professional golfers will be playing for record prize money of some £300,000 in 1985 – an increase of £60,000

The expansion of the "Tartan Tour" was outlined yesterday by Sandy Jones, the Scottish PGA secretary, who also revealed that the future of the National championship is secure for another season.

Drybroughs the brewers have agreed to sponsor the Scottish PGA event for another year and will increase the prize fund to a new record of £32,000 at Dalmahoy, from August 22 to 25.

Sam Torrance, the former Scottish champion, who finished second in this year's European Order of Merit, has already indicated that he will play in his domestic championship instead of the German Open that week.

As well as that main event of the Scottish calendar, there will be another seven 72-holes events during the season – all worth at least £10,000.

FOOTBALL: CLUB MUST WAIT FOR DECISION ON VIOLENCE AT OLD TRAFFORD

UEFA deny soft line on Celtic

By Clive White

UEFA strongly denied yesterday that a decision had already been taken not to suspend Celtic from European competition following acts of crowd violence during their Cup Winners' Cup tie against Rapid Vienna at Old Trafford last week.

In response to a story in one English newspaper that Celtic would be ordered only to play their European ties for the next two years 150 miles away from Parkhead, a UEFA official said: "That's rubbish, pure speculation. Nothing will be decided until the disciplinary meeting on January 17."

All Desmond White, the Celtic chairman, would say was: "We do not talk about fairy tales." Should this one come true Celtic would be ecstatic, since they are only too aware of UEFA's dwindling patience with British hooliganism.

However, there is a precedent of a sort for the assault by two spectators on Herbert Feurer, the Rapid goalkeeper, and Peter Pacult, the Rapid goalscorer. Following an attack by Real Madrid supporters on the referee and Gerd Muller, of Bayern Munich, in a European Cup tie in 1976 Real were ordered to play their next two matches away from home. But of course the Celtic disgrace was compounded by the fact that it occurred during a tie already being replayed because of earlier crowd misbehaviour at Parkhead.

Tuesday's results

FIRST DIVISION: Luton Town 1 WBA 2

THIRD DIVISION Millwall 2, Hull City 2

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Harlow Town 2, Dulwich Hamlet 2; Hitchin Town 1, Slough Town 1. Cup: Postponed: Staines v Letchworth.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round, second leg: South Liverpool 1, Burton Albion 0 (agg: 2-1).
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Chorley 3, Hyde United 3.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 1, Liverpool 0; Everton 4, Huddersfield 1; Manchester United 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0; Notts Co 4, Blackburn Rovers 1. Second division: Leeds 2, Blackpool 2; Middlesbrough 4, Burnley 1; Oldham 5, Wigan 0; Port Vale 3, Wolverhampton Wanderers 3; Rotherham 0, Scunthorpe 4.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Arsenal 2, Fulham 0; Charlton 4, Oxford United 1; Chelsea 1, Swansea 2; Ipswich 5, Brighton 2; Spurs 2, Portsmouth 1; Swindon 2, QPR 3; Watford 5, Birmingham 1.
SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Meadowbank Thistle 1, Falkirk 1.
FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Postponed: Billericay v Bishop's Stortford. Folkestone 1, Carshalton 2. Replays: Bromsgrove 3, Witton Albion 2; Hillingdon 1, Welling 3; Stourbridge 2, Bromley 0; Sutton 2, Hayes 1; Woking 2, Aveley 1.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Merthyr 2, Redditch 2.
CAPITAL LEAGUE: Gillingham 4, Orient 3.
EAST ANGLIAN CUP: Third round: Saffron Walden 4, Hertford 0.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Brentford 5, Southend 1.
ESSEX SENIOR TROPHY: Woodford 0, Stansted 2.

Fagan's dilemma as Dalglish and Lawrenson report fit

Mark Lawrenson and Kenny Dalglish may return to the Liverpool team for tomorr0w's televised game at Queen's Park Rangers. Lawrenson has missed two games with a hamstring injury and FDalglish was a late withdrawal from Saturday's team at Aston villa because he was suffering with a back problem. Both are now fit.

If Joe Fagan, the Loverpool manager, decides to retain Walsh up from and use Dalglish in midfield, either Wark or Johnston could be left out. Also in the reckoning for the first time since his move from Liecester City is Kevin MacDonald, who has completed a three-month suspension.

Raners face the prospect of losing two of their key players, Fenwick, their captain, and Stainrod, a forward, over the holiday period because of suspension. Stainrod, sent off after a first-half flare-up with the Everton defender, Van den Hauwe at Loftus Road 11 days ago missed two matches, although he will be able to play against Liverpool tomorrow. The ban comes into effect on Saturday. Fenwick, who is thought to be part 21 points, will also miss two games if that is the case.

● The Arsenal captain, David O'Leary, could be back for the home game against Watford on Saturday after missing two of their last three games with a thigh strain. The Republic of Ireland centre-half has resumed full training and the Arsenal manager, Don Howe, said he has "a very good chance" of being fit for Saturday.

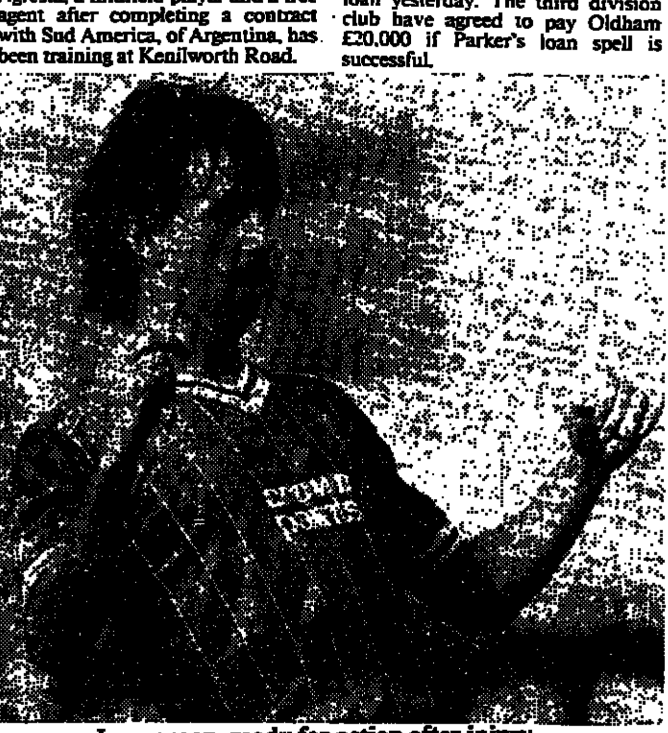
● Irving Nattrass, the Middlesbrough and former Newcastle United defender, is to retire from League football at the end of the season. The former England Under-23 international player does not want to risk long-term damage to his knee, which was operated on for the third time earlier this year.

Nattrass joined Newcastle at the age of 17 in 1970 and was transferred to Middlesbrough for £475,000 in 1979. He has made over 500 League and Cup appearances for the two north-east clubs.

● David Pleat, the Luton Town manager, is considering signing Nelson Agresta, a 29-year-old Uruguayan international, if the Home Office grants a work permit. Agresta, a midfield player and a free agent after completing a contract with Sud America, of Argentina, has been training at Kenilworth Road.

● Hereford United, of the fourth division, are hoping to cash in on the visit of first division Arsenal in the third round of the FA Cup next month by increasing admission price from £2 to £3 and grandstand seats from £3 to £5. They are expecting a capacity crowd of 17,000, and have erected a temporary grandstand to help cope.

● Derrick Parker, Oldham Athletic's transfer listed forward, signed for Doncaster Rovers on a month's loan yesterday. The third division club have agreed to pay Oldham £20,000 if Parker's loan spell is successful.



Lawrenson: ready for action after injury.

Foster hero and villain

Steve Foster was hero and villain as Luton Town found no end to heir relegation worries with a 2-1 defeat by West Bromwich Albion before a meagre 7,286 crowd – the lowest for a First Division game at Kenilworth Road.

Foster, the former England defender, signed from Aston Villa for £70,000 last month, gave Luton a fourteenth-minute lead with his first goal for the club. Garry Thompson equalized with his sixteenth goal of the season, and then Foster barged Nicky Cross in the penalty area, and Derek Statham scored the winner from the penalty spot.

Milwall lost their chance to go second in the third division after being held to a 2-2 draw by "Hull City". John Fashanu, Millwall's £55,000 signing from Lincoln, celebrated his debut with a fourth-minute goal, but Hull, despite losing injured goalkeeper Tony Norman for a 12-minute spell in the first half, hit back to become only the second team to earn a point at the Den this season.

● Robert Kelly, Leicester City's Republic of Ireland youth international, has joined fourth division Tranmere Rovers on a month's loan

Irish Cup draw

FIRST ROUND: Killyleagh v Omah T, Banbridge T v Linfield, RUC v Tobermore United, Downpatrick v Limavady United, Larne v STC, Ballymena United (holders) v Michelin, Distillery v Dunmurry, Island Magee v Ballymoney United, Glenavon v Crusaders, Barn United v Portadown, Glentoran v Carick Rangers, Bangor v Ards, Coleraine v Chimney Corner, Cliftonville v Brantwood, Ballyclares Comrades v Newry T, Civil Service v Harland and Wolff Welders. Matches to be played on January 19

Greek hopes fading fast

Greece 0 Belgium 0

Greece's hopes of reaching the World Cup finals sagged further when they could only draw with Belgium in a European group one qualifying game in Athens yesterday. Greece have only one point from two games. Belgium have three points from two games and will move to the top of the group if they can get at least a draw in Albania on Saturday.

The Greek trainer, Miltos Papaioannou had billed the game as their key to the finals but the scoring opportunities were rare. Belgium almost scored in the sixty-sixth minute when Keulemans found Scifo with only Sarganis to beat but the goalkeeper blocked the shot. A minute later Mitropoulos' hit the bar with a header from two yards

OLYMPIC GAMES

LA profit is still growing

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Olympic profit is now closer to $200 million, according to a new audit, which was made public yesterday. In September the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee announced the surplus was $150 million, 10 times more than expected. That figure is expected to be low, according to Olympic officials, who say that the surplus is likely to top $200 million.

The announcement of the new surplus amount is likely to renew the debate over what should be done with the enormous profits. Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, has asked that the Los Angeles Committee reimburse the $7 million that foreign Olympic committees paid to accommodate their teams at the Olympic villages. The LAOOC president, Peter Ueberroth has endorsed the reimbursement but there is expected to be opposition to the move

Local bus companies have also asked for a share of some of the profits to help pay for their Olympic deficit and some Olympic employees and volunteers have claimed they were short-changed with Olympic bonuses in the light of the large amounts paid to Mr Ueberroth (who received $475,000 as a bonus)

Peter Ball sees the boat come in for Darlington and Hartlepool

Revival spreads in the north-east

A thesis published a decade ago expounded the theory of the two nations of football. Pointing to the contrasting fortunes being experienced by the old Lancashire cotton towns and their football clubs – once powers in the land – and the more southerly towns, such as Ispwich and Southampton, it posited that power in football inexplicably bound up with employment and economic wealth, and that as the south was getting richer and the north getting poorer, football fortunes would follow a smiliar pattern.

However, the signs of life currently being shown in the north east, one of the country's most depressed areas, does little to support this interesting theory.

Four of the region's five Canon League clubs are showing evidence of rude health. In the first division, Sunderland have now reached the quarter-finals of the Milk Cup, while Newcastle United's return, without their messiah, Kevin Keegan, is far from being the disaster some feared; their exciting forwards, Beardsley and Waddle, are causing defences in the first division as many problems as they caused those in the second.

If Middlesbrough are the exception, with the third division beckoning at Ayrsome Park, two small clubs, Darlington and Hartlepool United, are on the up and up after years of depression which pessimists claimed was irreversible.

Darlington's young 13-man squad reached the top of the fourth division last week, to continue the form which earned their sharp, funny manager, Cyril Knowles, the former Tottenham and England full back, the November fourth division manager of the month award. An even bigger accolade, perhaps, was the presence of 15 other managers watching a recent Darlington game.

"We played well last year without much luck," Knowles recalled. "This year we have not played as well, but we've had a lot of breaks. But you need that. Anyway, it's got us up there and I think we are better for it.



Knowles: sharp

"The players have matured from last year. We have got a lot of young players. I've got young lads in who will work and graft. I want to build a good side, but nowadays most managers would admit that you relay on commitment and attitude to make the difference, and our players have been tremendous.

"People are so keen not to miss out that they are playing with dislocated shoulders, and everything's going fantastically well at the moment. In fact, I'm wondering when we'll get a bad spell."

Hartlepool's success has been more muted. Perhaps they have not the breaks. Missed penalties in the last five minutes of three games have cost them valuable points in the bid to keep hard on Darlington's heels, following a good start to the season. Even so, their current mid-table position is more than respectable for a club which only narrowly succeeded in being re-elected for a record fourteenth time last summer.

As interesting as success on the field has been the increase in attendances, suggesting that the traditional north-eastern love affair with football has been lying dormant rather than lying dead, and has now been reawakened.

In November, more than 28,000 turned up at St James' Park on such a filthy day that only the hardiest – or Geordie-football fans would have ventured out at all, let alone to watch a match being shown live on television, it was a staggering and very encouraging testimony to football's continuing hold on that area of the country.

But Newcastle v Liverpool has an aura about it. More significant was the gam at Hartlepool the previous day, where more than 7,000 turned up for a first round FA Cup tie. Even allowing for the special circumstances, with neither of the region's first division teams at home that day, and Derby, the visitors, rather better supported than most third division clubs, the figure was impressive. In fact, the second round tie against York City, attracted over 8,000 to the Victoria Ground, possibly the bleakest venue in the League.

"People said we shouldn't have been re-elected," Billy Horner, the Hartlepool manager, said, "but there is nobody who would command the gates at this level which we'd get if things are done right. We are averaging 4,000 now, which Maidstone wouldn't get if they were top. If we went to the top of the division we would get 10,000 here for certain.

"They still love their football around here but a lot go to Newcastle because they have been sickened so many times by the failures. But the supporters here are like Sunderland's: give them something to support and they will come and support you."

Darlington's potential is smaller, but their greater success on the field has brought good crowds to the pretty Feethams ground, the early season average of 1,000 to 1,200 increasing threefold. "The place is buzzing at the moment", Knowles said.

"We've put in an answerphone with a recorded message about the next game and it never stops. It's taking about a thousand calls a week – a pity we didn't negotiate a cut of its earnings with British Telecom."

Even Knowles, an advocate of Sunday football, was surprised by the size of the gate for the club's first Sunday match against Swindon Town at the beginning of December, more than 6,000. "I never thought I'd see the day when we got 2,000 more than Middlesbrough on the same weekend. It convinces me that we must play on Sunday. It isn't relevant for big clubs, perhaps, but it seems the logical thing for small ones. There's nothing else to do on a Sunday around here, apart from going to the pub at lunchtimes."

Knowles is the first to admit the connection between the club's success and the increase in crowds, and with his small squad and inexperienced team he is keeping his fingers crossed that there will be few injuries and that the onset of heavy grounds will not break the team's momentum.

Another result of success is that sponsors are showing an interest in Darlington and Hartlepool. "If we could just get promotion," Knowles said, his voiced trailing off. If Darlington and Hartlepool can pull back the crowds, football's future may not be as bleak as some feared.

FOR THE RECORD

GOLF

LA QUINTA: PGA tour qualifying tournament: following US players qualifying for 1985 tour (after six rounds): 418: P Azinger. 419: T Sieckmann; P Blackmar. 426: M Wiebe. 426: S Heath. 427: W Grady. 428: S Pate. 429: D Tricker; B Fabel; W Bergin; R Wrenn; M Sell. 430: K Green; C Perry; M Bright. 431: M Hulbert; A Magee; G Twiggs; J Hart; T Lehman; D Frost. 432: E Gonzalez. 433: J Sluman. 434: R Commans; J Sanders; G Johnson; R Tway; K Knox; S Jones; J Delsing. 435: S Bowman; T Snodgrass; I Smith; J Cooston; T Woodard; W Blackburn; W Britton; D Thore; M Bembiast. 436: R Lohr; S Liebler; B Smith; G Pinns; W Buttner; J Deforest; L Clements. 437: D Davis; M Gove; W Glasson; D Lundstrom.

NORDIC SKIING

DAVOS: Nations' Cup: Women's 4x5km relay: 1, Norway (G Nykkelmo, B Aunli, M Dahlmo and A Boe), 1hr 17min 42.8sec; 2, Soviet Union (A Ordina, R Smetanina, L Vasilchenko and J Stepanova), 1:17.48.8; 3, Sweden I (M Risby, H [illegible], K Lamberg and M Johansson), 1:08.38.8; 4, Czechoslovakia (D Svubova, V Klimkova, G Svobodova and B Paulu) 1:08.46.8; 5, East Germany (M Dreschler, G Nestler, A [illegible] and U Noack), 1:09.57.0; 6, Sweden II (A Dahlman, K Hugosson, A L Fritzon and F Harriss), 1:10.33.3. Overall positions: 1, Norway, 66pts; 2, Soviet Union, 52; 3, Sweden, 44; 4, Finland, 40; 5, Switzerland, 36; 6, Czechoslovakia, 28; 7, East Germany, 26; 8, Italy and United States, 18; 10, West Germany, 10.

TENNIS

ADELAIDE: South Australian men's open: First round: K Belcher (US) bt C Dowdeswell (GB), 7-5, 6-3; J Fitzgerald bt G Layendecker (US), 7-5, 6-7, 6-4. Second round: J Frawley (Aus) bt D Saltz (US), 6-2, 6-2; P Doohan (Aus) bt B Drewett (Aus), 7-6, 6-3; M Mecir (Cz) bt M Anger (US), 6-4, 6-3.
MIAMI BEACH: Orange bowl junior championships: Boys: Under 18, Third round: Roldan (Arg) bt A Baldoni (It), 7-6, 6-3; Skopf (Austria) bt T Nydahl (Swe), 6-3, 6-4; Boetsch (Fr) bt M Christianson (Swe), 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; M Briggs (US) bt I Kroll (W G), 6-2, 6-0; M Zaher (Alg) bt X Sanchez (Sp), 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; B Tasca (Br) bt T Carronell (Sp), 7-6, 6-4. [illegible]
HESTON: [illegible] Semi-final: Reeves bt Einy, 7-5, 6-2; Jones bt [illegible], 6-2, 6-3.

CYCLING

MAASTRICHT: Six-day race: 1, R Pijnen (Neth) and D Clark (Aus), 351 pts; 2, G Frank (Den) and H Schuetz (WG), 381, one lap behind; 3, D Thurau and A Fritz (WG), 253, 1; 4, A Doyle (GB) and G Wiggins (Aus), 273, 1; 5, J Kristen and H Rinklin (WG), 346, 2; 6, S Tourne and E de Wilde (Bel), 312, 2.

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): Boston Celtics 126, New York Knicks 108; Washington Bullets 104, New Jersey Nets 95; Indiana Pacers 98, Utah Jazz 81; Cleveland Cavaliers 118, San Antonio Spurs 110; Los Angeles Lakers 117, Atlanta Hawks 116; Milwaukee Bucks 110, Dallas Mavericks 96; Houston Rockets 104, Chicago Bulls 98; Kansas City Kings 127, Phoenix Suns 116; Seattle Supersonics 109, Portland Trail Blazers 99; Denver Nuggets 128, Golden State Warriors 122.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Hills Road VI Form College 8, Perse 18; KCS, Wimbledon 42, Wrekin 3.

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Group One: Greece 0, Belgium 0.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Millwall v Luton postponed; pitch waterlogged.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Northampton 0, Bournemouth 1.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Civil Service 2, Royal Air Force 1.
OTHER MATCH: Zamalek 2, Bayern Munich 1

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Washington Capitals 4, Quebec Nordiques 1; Boston Bruins 6, Montreal Canadiens 4; New York Islanders 7, Winnipeg Jets 4; Los Angeles Kings 6, Calgary Flames 3.
MOSCOW: Izvestia tournament: Finland 6, Czechoslovakia 4.

BASKETBALL

ANGLO-SCOTTISH CUP: Preliminary round: Falkirk 74 (Pope 22), Cotterill Manchester Giants 75 (Brookins 22, Robinson 21).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Newbridge v South Wales Police cancelled.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Incledon-Webber Cup (under 16): Second round: J Longley (Tonbridge) bt J Hance (Tonbridge), 15-2, 15-2; H C Taylor (Charterhouse) bt J Trusted (Eton), 15-1, 15-1; W Waghorn (Wellington) bt D Bevan (Marlborough), 15-7, 14-15, 15-7; J S Myers (Radley) bt M Croisson (Haileybury), 15-0, 15-5; M G Lewis (Rugby) bt C S Hayworth (Malvern), 15-6, 15-12; G N Lunt (Malvern) bt I K Timberlake (Malvern), 15-7, 12-15, 15-8; I G H Woodmansey (Rugby) bt D H E Cotton (Radley), 15-4, 15-1; S Ross (Harrow) bt I Snell (Canford), 15-5, 15-8. Quarter-finals: Longley bt Taylor, 15-6, 15-0; Waghorn bt Myers, 15-8, 15-11; Lunt bt Lewis, 15-7, 8-15, 15-5; Woodmansey bt Ross, 18-16, 15-9. Semi-finals: Longley bt Waghorn 15-2, 4-15, 15-17, 15-9, 15-8; Lunt bt Woodmansey, 10-15, 15-8, 15-3, 15-4. H K Foster Cup, first round: P Bally (Eton) bt S Heck (Haileybury), 15-2, 15-13, 15-1.

RUGBY UNION

England want to put game back on its feet with radical law changes

By Tim Glover

England are proposing to make radical changes in laws which could transform the game. The Rugby Football Union want to rewrite the laws dealing with the scrum, rucks and mauls with the result that second phase possession, an obsession of the modern British coach, will be virtually eliminated in its present form.

The moves are principally designed to make the game safer and more attractive by keeping players on their feet and avoiding the notorious pile-ups and collapsed scrums. They stem from the two-year labours of an injuries working party and will be put before the International Board, rugby's ruling body, at their meeting in Paris, which begins on March 18. The working party itself is indirectly the brainchild not of administrators or players but of parents who have been worried over the increase in injuries.

John Kendall-Carpenter, a member of the International Board, a former England international and headmaster of Wellington School, Somerset, said: "Boxing has been banished from schools because it was considered too dangerous and we have to be careful that the same thing doesn't happen to rugby".

The recommendations will alter fundamentally laws 19(3) and 20, the former covering "lying with, on or near the ball" and the latter dealing with the scrum. A protracted maul or ruck, where a referee waits for the ball to emerge, would be abolished. Any player wilfully on the ground will be penalized and the idea is to keep both sets of forwards on their feet and the game alive.

As to the scrum, the shoulders of all players must not be lower than his hip, the object being to eliminate collapsed scrums which can be the source of neck and spinal injuries. The working party found that of 63 players admitted to Stoke Mandeville Hospital with broken necks between 1952 and 1982, 37 were forwards, 20 of them front row forwards. Of the 63, 16 were schoolboy players.

The rule changes have been operated by England at under-19 level for the past two seasons, although not by the other home countries.

The schoolboy "guineapigs" have responded well, Kendall-Carpenter said. "One school reported a 50 per cent reduction in injuries and the pattern of play has improved."

Similar innovations have been employed by schools in Australia and New Zealand for the last six years and the RFU feel their potential revolution at club and international level is timely in the wake of the Australian party which has just left British rugby asking itself many questions.

"Second phase ball is killing our game," Kendall-Carpenter said, "which is why we are trying to kill it. There is no such thing in Australian rugby and that explains why their game is so much cleaner, faster and entertaining. By heaving around in a heap we stop the game instead of starting it. Our appeal is diminishing, which is why we want literally to get our game back on its feet."

Kendall-Carpenter, who won 23 caps between 1949 and 1954, recalled a visit to the England dressing room after a match against Argentina in 1981. "Nobody could speak", he said. "Bill Beaumont had a bruise a foot square on his back and what they had been involved in was physical combat. We have got to get away from this."

The RFU, who have spent between £25,000 and £30,000 on their campaign, believe, with the support of the southern hemisphere, they will get their proposals passed by the IB.

Meanwhile they are establishing a national register of injuries, co-ordinated by computer, beginning with a pilot scheme involving 60 clubs and schools. With the help of the BBC, they will also study video tapes of matches at Twickenham to monitor how injuries are caused.

Ian Beer, chairman of the working party, said: "There are half a million people playing rugby in England every weekend. We believe in the game and we don't think it's too dangerous, but the approach to it has become more competitive and aggressive."

● The Rugby Football Union propose to make the following changes:

"Law 19(3): Lying with, on or near the ball (IB 147)

"A player or players from either team must not wilfully fall on or over a player who is lying on the ground with the ball in his possession, or on players lying on the ground with ball between them"

Penalty: Penalty kick at the place of infringement.

Additional Notes to help to interpret Law 19

(a) NO advantage shall be played under this law.

(b) A player is assumed to have fallen wilfully unless the referee is absolutely certain the fall was accidental.

(b) In the very rare instances when the fall is accidental, play must be stopped and a scrummage awarded, the object of this change in interpretation in Law 19 is to keep players on their feet and to prevent them from falling to the ground; thus removing a dangerous area of play. This will create proper rucks and mauls defined as "... players from each team *on their feet*" (Law 21, ruck: Law 22, maul). Should the correctly formed ruck or maul then collapse, the referee must immediately act to prevent a pile-up from developing.

Reason: Because of the unsatisfactory nature of the pile-ups which continue to take place in the game and for safety.

Law 20 Scrummage (IB 149)

Reference point (5) delete and replace with:

"While a scrummage is forming and is taking place.

(a) All players in each front row must adopt a normal stance. Both feet must be on the ground, must not be crossed and must be in a position for an effective forward shove.

(b) The shoulders of all players in the scrummage must not be lower than his hip joint.

(c) The players of each front row shall bind firmly and continuously."

Reason: For Safety. This change has proved extremely successful over the last 12 months with the U-19 age group.

England's farmer-flanker is out of a rut

Winterbottom ploughing his way back

If you should pass through the village of Halton East in the Yorkshire Dales, you may catch a glimpse of a fair-haired, chunky figure, driving a tractor, humping sacks of cattle feed, or tending to the sheep on his uncle's farm, where he works.

Sadly, he may be limping a little, as the pelvic injury which has prevented him playing senior rugby since September 29, is still troubling Peter Winterbottom, the Headingley, Yorkshire, England and British Lions flanker who is one of the most exciting talents in the game.

At 24, Winterbottom can expect years of top-class rugby, so his injury has been frustrating to him as it has been to the England selectors, who only consolation is that he occupies a positionn which his country is well served in depth. But on Saturday there were signs that Winterbottom could return sooner than expected as he successfully completed a run out at centre with Headingley's fifth team; and this Saturday he will continue his comeback in the back row for Headingley Wanderers.

His rise has been meteoric. At one moment, it seemed, he was struggling to establish himself in a fine Yorkshire side (like England, suspect in the front five of the pack but powerful in the back row) and the next he had made the full England team and had earned selection for the Lions 1983 tour of New Zealand, where his growing reputation for tireless speed, courage and a formidable work rate was enhanced.

Immediately after the disastrous England tour of South Africa, two reasonably undemanding club matches were survived, he admits with some discomfort, but shortly afterwards the Glengarth Sevens left Winterbottom in considerable pain and scarcely able to walk.

Diagnosis was varied, ranging from an acute groin strain to a twisted pelvis, but X-ray examinations suggested that no bones were out of place; one medical view, odd in the context of one so young, was that he was merely suffering from "wear and tear!"

Then his prospects of a quick return to the game changed quite dramatically when Richard Greenwood, the England coach, advised him to visit Terry Moule, an osteopath who had successfully treated his national team colleagues Peter Wheeler and Phil Blakeway. "He said that something was a bit out of place, as one of my legs was longer than the other. He identified that the problem stemmed not from the groin itself but from a misalignment of the hip bones," says Winterbottom.



Winterbottom: taking steps forward

Michael Stevenson

RACKETS

Harford and Bailey come back in style

By William Stephens

Simon Harford (Winchester) defeated Simon Davies (Tonbridge) by 12–15, 15–16, 15–12, 16–13, 15–6 in the H. K. Foster Cup at Queen's Club yesterday. After losing the first game, Harford had game point at 15–15 in the second only to lose that too. Then he showed his resilience. Davies interspersed classic shots with unforced errors.

Peter Baily (Eton) overcame a sluggish start against the Marlborough Jonathan Heald to win 12–15, [illegible]3, 15–7, 15–8. Heald, slightly [illegible] with a double handed back [illegible] led 13–6 in the first game, his [illegible] pace upsetting Bailey. One [illegible]p. Heald led 13–12 in the [illegible] but lost it. Bailey applied [illegible] finding precision of placing [illegible] the last two games from [illegible]5 respectively.

[illegible] Harford (Winchester) bt S Davies [illegible]–15, 16–16, 15–12, 16–13, [illegible] (Eton) bt J Heald (Marlborough), 15-[illegible]-7, 15-8; O G Dick (Harrow) [illegible] (Malvern), 15–1, 3–15, 13–15, bt [illegible] Bowen-Brown (Tonbridge) bt T 15-10, 15-10; [illegible] B Cockcroft (Wellington), 15–5, 15–3, 15–8.

HANDBALL

Danes making an impact

By Paul Harrison

The Danish connection in British handball is strong. The Danes, one of Europe's stronger nations, keep a benevolent eye on the development of the sport in Britain, one of Europe's weaker brethren.

Technical and coaching help comes from across the North Sea, and the Danish brewery sponsors one leading English team. Danish players strengthen British squads, while Great Danes, of the British League southern division, grew out of an Anglo-Danish social club in London, where students and au pairs gathered.

Great Danes, with names such as Lars-Bo Lauritzen and Soren Neilson appearing regularly on their score sheet, have prove the surprise of the season so far. They lead their division with a 100 per cent record at the halfway stage, culminating in a 22–17 victory last weekend over Carlsberg MK 80, from Milton Keynes. Danes, however, have yet to play Brentwood 72, the former English champions who have also been recording good results.

The strongest team in Britain over the past few years has been Liverpool, the league and cup holders. Predictably, they lead the northern division, having dropped only one point, in Scotland at EK 82.

In the women's English National League, Wakefield Metros appear to have their title sewn up again already. Robert Jenkins, from Ruislip, their biggest rivals in recent years, have been having a disappointing season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Birmingham v Portsmouth (2.0).

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Preston v York (7.0).

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Billericay v Bishop's Stortford.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Solent v Warrington and Liverpool (7.30).

ANGLO SCOTTISH CUP: Elimination round: Sunderland v Glasgow (8.0).

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS: Public Schools singles tournament, semi-finals: (at Queen's Club, 11.30).

RACING: DISAPPOINTING ENTRY FOR KEMPTON'S FEATURE RACE ON BOXING DAY

Rigton Beau ready for a repeat

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Twelve months ago visitors to Hereford watched Rigton Beau and Pucka Fella win the Coriander Handicap Hurdle and the Comfrey Handicap Chase, respectively. Today the same two will be back there attempting to give a repeat performance, and I think that both have a good chance of succeeding.

Rigton Beau, who won his race last year by 20 lengths, is napped to triumph again even though he now has 4lb more to carry against arguably tougher opposition. Rigton Beau needed two races last season before he struck winning form and that looks likes being the pattern again. In going nap on him in possibly the hardest race of the day I am greatly encouraged by the way that his trainer Gay Kindersley's horses have been running of late.

Spaced Out, who has such a good record at Hereford; Rebeg, from Tim Forster's in-form stable, Miss Willie, a full sister to that Cheltenham specialist Willy Wumpkins; Rueful Lady and Keven Evans, who was there with a chance of winning at Leicester until he tripped up three hurdles out, are formidable opponents. But following that heartening run behind Pelion at Huntingdon last week Rigton Beau can prove equal to the task.

Anthony Webber, who rides my nap, also has a good chance of winning the Cloves Chase on Ardent Spy, who won his first race of the season at Warwick so nicely. But here I just prefer Voice Of Progress, who has been running well in better company at Newbury, Cheltenham and Haydock.

The Comfrey Handicap Chase will be the third time that Pucka Fella and Ballydonagh have met this season. So far Pucka Fella has done the better each time, on the last occasion by as much as 10 lengths. Now, on only 3lb worse terms, I expect him to come out on top again.

At Carlisle, you will not need to be blessed with vivid imagination to picture Gordon Richards enjoying a field day. The successful Penrith trainer has a fancied runner in every race at his local track.

Having been beaten a neck by Strawhill at Hexham recently Preben Fur looks to have an excellent chance of getting his revenge on 8lb better terms in the Cumwhinton Handicap Chase.

French Lord, who has been taking on the likes of Cybrandian and Grinders this season, meets nothing of their calibre in the Heads Nook Novices' Chase, while Boardmans Coronet will not have to be anything out of the ordinary to win the second division of the Caldbeck Novices' Hurdle.

Three declare for King George

Boxing Day's King George VI Chase at Kempton Park has cut up to three declarations at the four-day stage, and with Combs Ditch a doubtful runner, the stage looks set for a match between Burrough Hill Lad and Wayward Lad. It will be the smallest King George field since Frenchman's Cove beat Jay Trump in a match 20 years ago.

The current score in the battle of the "lads" is 2-0 in favour of Mrs Jenny Pitman's Gold Cup winner. Wayward Lad was pulled up behind Burrough Hill Lad at Cheltenham last March, while in a recent clash at Wetherby, Mrs Pitman's gelding came home 10 lengths to the good.

Voice Of Progress, who after three placed efforts against strong opposition this season, is set an easier task in today's Cloves Chase at Hereford.

Pattern changes

The stewards of the Jockey Club announced yesterday that following the annual meeting of the European Pattern Committee, held in Rome last week, two major changes will be made to the 1985 Flat Pattern next year with the formation of a new group two one-mile event, the Trusthouse Forte Mile, for four-year-olds and upwards, to be run at Sandown on April 26, while the Juddmonte Lockinge Stakes at Newbury on May 17, formerly group three, has been upgraded to group two status.

Misfortune for Dever as Ben Lair survives

Peter Dever, who has been riding so well recently, had the sort of Christmas present at Worcester yesterday that National Hunt jockeys dread. He came for one ride, Morgan's Gold, in the Novices' Chase, fell at the eighth and finished up with a broken left wrist which is likely to keep him out of action for a month.

The race went to Fulke Walwyn's 13-8 favourite Ben Lair, who gave weight all round and scraped home by half a length after an incident-packed last half mile. Ben Lair looked like turning it into a procession when he was bowling along with a clear lead for most of the way, but the favourite stumbled as he touched down over the fourth from home, losing most of his advantage. Arctic Mariner was breathing down Ben Lair's neck when he almost went with a bad blunder at the next, then a loose horse nearly took Ben Lair out at the last, making the favourite lose all his momentum.

Avie Hero suddenly looked set to catch the leader, only to take the last fence by the roots, 50 yards later, getting rid of both his bridle and rider after Anthony Webber had made a valiant effort to stay on board.

Finally, Seven Acres staged a late flourish that failed by only half a length. But Ben Lair remains unbeaten on the only two occasions he has completed the course and Fulke Walwyn said: "He jumped well in the conditions, which were really bad. He had to pull up to a walk at the last. I think he is a horse with a good future.

The luck of Jimmy Duggan, another promising and stylish young rider, could not have been in greater contrast to Peter Dever's. Duggan, aged 21, came for two rides and won on them both – Sailor's Dance and Hopeful Answer.

Last respects

The racing world yesterday paid its last respects to the Newmarket jockey Brian Taylor, who died in Hong Kong from head injuries suffered in a fall at Sha Tin racecourse on December 8. Stewards and officials of the Jockey Club, owners, trainers, jockeys, the racing press, and many of Taylor's friends were among the mourners at All Saints Church, Newmarket. Taylor, aged 45, who rode 1,254 winners, including the Derby on Snow-Knight in 1974, leaves a son and two daughters.

HEREFORD

GOING: soft

12.30 COWSLIP SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£499: 2m) (8 runners)

1	00040-0	CHUMMY'S BOY (B) (A Williams) D Burchell 4-12-2	Mr M Richards 7
2	000-00	SOLAR LIGHT (F Yardley) F Yardley 4-11-12	C Smith
3	200040-	COMRA (D Wintle) D Wintle 5-11-8	J Wathen 7
5	003044	LOOKING FOR GOLD (B Gordon) P Pritchard 6-11-2	N Fearn
7	/0034-p	THOMAS A BECKET (J Criddle) J Criddle 5-11-1	Mr J Townson 7
8	330002	MASTER BOON (B) (D Martin) D Tucker 5-11-1	S McNeill
9	p04/p	CHARLES BOOT (B) (Mrs P Townley) P Pritchard 5-10-9	A Webber
10	343001	SAX (B) (CD) (K Mulroney) K Bridgwater 4-10-7	W Worthington 7

1983: Mr Mynd 6-10-5 K Mooney (6-1) J Wright 14 ran.

15-8 Master Boon, 5-2 Looking For Gold, 4 Sax, 13-2 Chummy's Boy, 10 Comra, 14 Charles Boot, 16 other.

FORM: SOLAR LIGHT (10-11) no headway from 7th when 7th to Tropical Mist (10-11) in Fontwell nov Hurdle (2M 2F), £548, soft, Oct 22, 18 ran). COMRA (11-6) prominent to 7th before finishing tailed off in Ascot novice hurdle won by Hazy Sunset (11-6) (2M 4F, £3401, good, Apr 4, 19 ran). MASTER BOON (11-6) ½L 2nd and LOOKING FOR GOLD (11-7) 6½L 4th to Sandicliffe Again (10-8) in Towcester sell (2M hdle, £493, good to soft, Dec 15, 8 ran). SAX (10-8) unchallenged for 15L success from Stormy Haze in Hereford seller (2M hdls, £489, soft, Dec 4, 6 ran).
Selection: SAX

Hereford selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Master Boon. 1.0 Voice of Progress. 1.30 RIGTON BEAU (nap). 2.0 Pucka Fella. 2.30 Just Joking. 3.0 Flaming Pearl.

By Michael Seely

2.0 Pucka Fella. 2.30 Brother Geoffrey.

1.00 CLOVES CHASE (£1,192: 2m 4f) (5)

1	11110-1	ARDENT SPY (G Taylor) R Armytage 7-11-5	A Webber
5	113/p-	RORQUAL (D) (W Whitbread) Mrs M Rimell 9-11-5	S Morshead
6	234-332	VOICE OF PROGRESS (D) (BF) (M Vestey) D Nicholson 6-11-5	P Scudamore
7	02f0-03	WILL BOREEN (B) (A Durkan) M McCormack 10-11-5	P Barton
8	10-0204	DISHCLOTH (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 10-11-0	J Bryan

1983: Lord Leighton 7-11-5 C Brown (5-1) L Kennard 9 ran.

10-11 Voice of Progress, 13-8 Ardent Spy, 12 Will Boreen, Dishcloth, 14 Rorqual.

FORM: ARDENT SPY (11-10) ridden to lead near finish when 1L Warwick scorer over Nickle Moppett (10-6) (3M CH, £1408, soft, Nov 29, 8 ran). RORQUAL, pulled up only start 1983/84, won twice the previous season, including (11-10) by a head from Pizza (11-7) at Wolverhampton (2M 4F CH, £1330, good to soft, 7 ran). VOICE OF PROGRESS (11-7) 4L 2nd of 4 to Broken Speech (10-0) at Haydock (2M 4F, £4052, good to soft, Nov 21).
Selection: ARDENT SPY

1.30 CORIANDER HANDICAP HURDLE (£919: 3m 1f) (17)

1	3010-10	SPACED OUT (CD) (L Phipps) T Bailey 9-12-3	Mr B Dowling 7
2	3300-p3	RIGTON BEAU (GD) (R Denton) G Kindersley 7-11-12	A Webber
4	12p-042	REBEG (BF) (Lord Astor) T Forster 7-11-5	H Davies
5	0/1144	SLIEVE LUACHRA (Mrs H Duffey) K Bailey 6-11-4	M Perrett
6	00421-0	PHARAOH'S OWN (CD) (J Davis) J Baker 7-10-13	C Evans 7
7	0-44100	SHIRLEY GROVE (C Moritz) P Bevan 6-10-13	S Morshead
8	40p-003	SOMAY (M Maycroft) D Nicholson 7-10-13	P Scudamore
9	0p03-00	MISS WILLIE (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 8-10-11	Mr A J Wilson
11	400-021	RUEFUL LADY (C) (Mrs D Onions) Mrs D Onions 5-10-4 (7ex)	J Nolan
12	112000	BEAU WYNK (B) (CD) (B Key) B Key 11-10-3	Miss D Key 7
13	213-004	TIC-ON-ROSE (H Chisman) Mrs B Waring 7-10-3	E Waite
14	002-000	MARIBAN (J Lewis) R Holder 5-10-3	P Richards
16	00000-0	CURTAIN RUN (R Yates) Mrs S Davenport 6-10-2	A Sharpe
17	31p00-f	KEVIN EVANS (CD) (G Bigglestone) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-2	R Rowe
18	0400-30	DIAL DIRECT (H Burridge) B Palling 7-10-1	A Griffiths 4
20	344-220	MENDALEAK (W Price) W Price 7-10-0	N Coleman 4
21	0010/00	BATTUR (Miss M De Quincey) B Preece 9-10-0	R Strange

1983: Rigton Beau 6-11-8 A Webber (3-1) G Kindersley 17 ran.

5 Rebeg, 6 Somay, Kevin Evans, 15-2 Slieve Luachra, Rueful Lady, 10 Spaced Out, Rigton Beau, Shirley Grove, 12 Pharaoh's Own, 16 Mendaleak, 20 others.

FORM: SPACED OUT (11-3) No Headway from 2 out when 11l 5th of 16 to Right Regent (13-4) at Cheltenham 2m hdle £3015, good to soft, Dec 7). SHIRLEY GROVE (10-1) had every chance 2 out before weakening quickly into 7th while MISS WILLIE (10-1) never troubled the leaders in finishing 10th. RIGTON BEAU (11-8) 1l 3rd of 13 to Pelion (10-12) at Huntingdon (3m hdle, £1833, good, Dec 12).

REBEG (10-12) 1 ½l 2nd of 21 to Sacred Path (10-8) at Warwick (2m 5f hdle, £1447, soft, Nov 29), BEAU WYNK (10-1) was 10th. PHARAOH'S OWN (10-13) at Ascot, finished 1983/84 with 25l novice victory over Alwins Boy here (3m 1f hdle, £745, good to soft, Mar 31). REGBEG (11-13) was pulled up before 3 out. RUEFUL LADY (10-12) stayed on well to beat Jarcilla (10-12) 2l in novice event here (2m 4f hdle, £1532, soft, Dec 4, 16 ran). KEVIN EVANS, faller on Leicester reappearance last season (10-4) was 3l Leicester winner from Imperium (11-12) (3m hdle, £981, good to soft, Jan 10, 10 ran).
SELECTION: PHARAOH'S OWN.

2.00 COMFREY HANDICAP CHASE (£1,724: 3m 1f) (10)

1	0210-21	PUCKA FELLA (CD) (Mrs D Tucker) Mrs D Tucker 10-12-5 (3ex)	J Hurst 7
2	2203p-0	WOODLANDS LAD (D) (P Pritchard) P Pritchard 9-11-9	A Webber
3	/324-32	BALLYDONAGH (Lady E Nugent) D Nugent 11-11-7	P Croucher 4
5	3f-2pp0	FREDWEL (D) (T Warner) P Bailey 9-11-3	S Morshead
6	p4rp/0-	PIPING REED (D) (Mrs F Salter) J Salter 12-11-2	J Frost
8	1320f/f	BRIGHT BEACON (J Daly) T Forster 10-10-11	H Davies
10	101-pp0	ROONEY PARADE (S Pelling) Mrs B Waring 9-10-10	M Herrington
12	02p-020	MR GUMBOOTS (T Hughes) Mrs J Barrow 10-10-8	Peter Hobbs
13	00-4300	SHAMROCK BRIDGE (M Clarke) R Francis 9-10-6	R Crank
16	02/f4-0	BROUGHTON LAD (R Chugg) R Chugg 11-10-0	J Suthern

1983: Pucka Fella 9-10-8 M O'Halloran (3-1) Mrs D Tucker 10 ran.

11-8 Pucka Fella, 11-4 Ballydonagh, 6 Woodlands Lad, 8 Bright Beacon, 10 Mr Gumboots, 14 Fredwel, 16 others.

PUCKA FELLA (11-10) beat BALLYDONAGH (11-1) 10l here (3m 1f ch, £1,702, soft, Dec 4, 5 ran). WOODLANDS LAND (10-4) prominent to 14th when 7th of 8 finishers to Run And Skip (10-10) at Warwick (3m ch, £1,410, heavy, Dec 15). MR GUMBOOTS (11-7) 42l last of 6 to Its Only A Joke (11-4) at Stratford (3m 2f ch, £1,660, soft, Nov 8). SHAMROCK BRIDGE (10-2) 19l 5th of 9 Smith's Man (10-12) at Leicester (3m ch, £1,301, good, Dec 4). When ROONEY PARADE (10-8) 8th.
Selection: WOODLANDS LAD.

2.30 CARAWAY NOVICE CHASE (5-y-o: £1,254: 2m) (16)

1	31-0001	MARINA STAR (D) (C Sanderson) O O'Neill 11-5	J Suthern
2	0112-2	BROTHER GEOFFREY (D) (G Brittain) C Thornton 11-0	D Wilkinson
3	00-4	CYNICAL SAM (R Frost) R Frost 11-0	J Frost
4	240-04f	FARE LOVE (E E Evans) E E Evans 11-0	P Warner
6	003-00f	FOUNTAIN VALLEY (J Brook) Miss A King 11-0	–
8	02	JUST JOKING (T Nixon) T Forster 11-0	H Davies
10	0p2-400	MASTER CARL (P Savill) F Winter 11-0	J Francome
11	000-004	NATIVE SON (K Pinfield) J Cosgrove 11-0	P Carvill
12	/pp103-	ONLY A FOOL (T Woodward) T Keenor 11-0	R Hoare
13	00-1-pp	PALMERSTON (E Gittins) D Barons 11-0	Mr C Thornton
14	130-1-3	QUICK REPLY (D Gallop) D Gandolfo 11-0	P Barton
15	000-004	QUITE HOT (N Ayliffe) N Ayliffe 11-0	M Ayliffe
16	00330-0	SHANNIE (B Webb) O O'Neill 11-0	C Smith
17	00/1043	SOVEREIGN ISLAND (T Colbourne) Mrs A Finch 11-0	M Harrington
18	04-0	SWAGGERING (J M Salter) J Salter 11-0	D Wonnacott 7
21	444-0f4	ROSTRA (Col A Taylor) R Armytage 10-9	A Webber

1983: Native Break 6-11-0 P Scudamore (12-1) Mrs W Sykes 14 ran.

7-4 Brother Geoffrey, 5-2 Rostra, 9-2 Just Joking, 11-2 Master Carl, 12 Sovereign Island, Quick Reply, 15 others.

MARINA STAR (10-12) made all when beating Fluid (10-12) 1½l at Ludlow (2m ch, £931, good, Nov 28, 9 ran), with QUICK REPLY (11-0) 20l away 3rd, FARE LOVE (10-12) 2nd when fell 3 out, and ROSTRA (10-7) fell 1st. BROTHER GEOFFREY (11-3) 12l 2nd to Tarn (11-3) at Kelso (2m ch, £796, good to soft, Nov 14). JUST JOKING (10-12) 7l 2nd of 13 to Mearlin (10-7) at Taunton (2m ½, £51, soft, Nov 22). SOVEREIGN ISLAND (11-4) 22l 3rd of 12 to Roadster (11-4) at Warwick (2m ch, £1,217, heavy, Dec 14) with LITTLE ROCK (11-4) bad 8th. ROSTRA, last time, 4l 4th of 20 to Bickleigh Bridge (10-3) at Taunton (2m 3f hdle, £1,290, soft, Dec 6). Selection: BROTHER GEOFFREY.

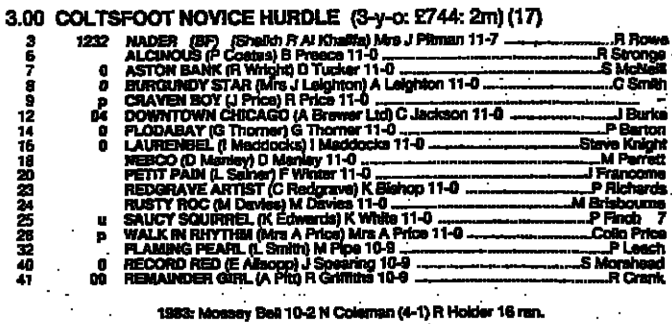
3.00 COLTSFOOT NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £744: 2m) (17)

3	1232	NADER (BF) (Sheikh R Al Khalifa) Mrs J Pitman 11-7	R Rowe
6		ALCINOUS (P Coates) B Preece 11-0	R Strange
7	0	ASTON BANK (R Wright) D Tucker 11-0	S McNeill
8	0	BURGUNDY STAR (Mrs J Leighton) A Leighton 11-0	C Smith
9	p	CRAVEN BOY (J Price) R Price 11-0	–
12	04	DOWNTOWN CHICAGO (A Brewer Ltd) C Jackson 11-0	J Burke
14	0	FLODABAY (G Thorner) G Thorner 11-0	P Barton
16	0	LAURENBEL (I Maddocks) I Maddocks 11-0	Steve Knight
18		NEBCO (D Manley) D Manley 11-0	M Perrett
20		PETIT PAIN (L Sainer) F Winter 11-0	J Francome
23		REDGRAVE ARTIST (C Redgrave) K Bishop 11-0	P Richards
24		RUSTY ROC (M Davies) M Davies 11-0	M Brisbourne
25	u	SAUCY SQUIRREL (K Edwards) K White 11-0	P Finch 7
26	p	WALK IN RHYTHM (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 11-0	Colin Price
32		FLAMING PEARL (L Smith) M Pipe 10-9	P Leach
40	0	RECORD RED (E Allsopp) J Spearing 10-9	S Morshead
41	00	REMAINDER GIRL (A Pitt) R Griffiths 10-9	R Crank

1983: Mossey Bell 10-2 N Coleman (4-1) R Holder 16 ran.

5-2 Nader, 7-2 Petit Pain, 5 Flaming Pearl, 13-2 Laurenbel, 8 Downtown Chicago, 10 Alcinous, 14 Redgrave Artist, 20 others.

NADER (11-0) 8l 2nd of 15 to Maistrano (11-0) at Wetherby (2m h, £548, good, Dec 8). DOWNTOWN CHICAGO (10-7) 9l 4th of 8 to Reldndle (10-2) at Perth (2m h, £474, firm, Sept 1). LAURENBEL (11-0) prominent to 2 out when 16½l 6th of 16 to Tinkersfield (11-0) at Taunton (2m 1f h, £653, soft, Dec 6), with RECORD RED (10-8) 8th.
Selection: NADER.



CARLISLE

GOING: soft

12.45 CALDBECK NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £523: 2m 330yd) (10 runners)

4	00	CHIPCHASE (A Taylor) B Wilkinson 4-11-0	Mr G Harker 7
5	04-/	DAY OF WISHES (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 8-11-0	R Lamb
6	04-0002	DEMONIC (S Marsh) R Fisher 5-11-0	M Meagher 4
8	0p	KUMMASIE (B) (A Graham) C Parker 7-11-0	J O'Neill
10	4000-04	PRINCE REVIEWER (J Zochonis) A W Jones 6-11-0	T Wall
11	0	PRINCE SWEET (G Richards) G Richards 4-11-0	N Doughty
12	20-4002	STARSHOT (D Swindlehurst) D Swindlehurst 9-11-0	D Swindlehurst 7
13	00444-0	SYDETZKY (Miss E Wilans) Miss E Wilans 4-11-0	S Charlton
14	0	THERE AGAIN (L Irving) T Barnes 4-11-0	M Barnes
16	1	MILTON LOCKHART (W G Young) W Young 5-10-9	D Nolan

1983: Pebble Island 4-11-2 N Doughty (5-2 jt-fav) G Richards 12 ran.

7-4 Demonic, 11-4 Starshot, 4 Prince Reviewer, Prince Sweet, 10 Sydetzky, 16 others.

Carlisle selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Demonic 1.15 Rhymarc 1.45 Preben Fur 2.15 French Lord 2.45 Boardmans Coronet 3.15 The Man Himself.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.45 BOARDMANS CORONET (nap)

1.15 ASPATRIA SELLING HURDLE (£459: 2m 330yd) (8)

1	001	RICHARDS BAY (J Ratter) R Allan 3-10-12	N Doughty
2	p42p00	TEUCER (R Adamson) V Thompson 4-11-12	Mr M Thompson 7
3	144003	CALAMAN (P Monteith) P Monteith 4-11-7	D Nolan
4	00	DENVER (K McDonald) I Vickers 4-11-7	S Keightley
5	0	IT'S HEAVEN (G Dawes) G M Moore 4-11-2	D Dutton
6	004342	RHYMARC (B) (D Batey) G Richards 4-11-2	J Hansen 4
7	0p	MR MUSIC BOY (F Walker) I Vickers 3-10-7	K Jones
8	0032	EDWEET (C Rennison) W Storey 3-10-2	K Teelan 4

1983: Raby 4-11-10 P Tuck (7-2) C H Bell 8 ran.

2 Edweet, 11-4 Rhymarc, 3 Richards Bay, 7 Teucer, Calaman, 16 others.

1.45 CUMWHINTON HANDICAP CHASE (£1,592: 3m) (6)

1	13u4-31	TWIFLIGHT (C,D) (G Leadbitter) B Wilkinson 9-11-10	Mr G Harker 7
3	333110	SUCCEEDED (D) (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 7-11-4	Mr P J Dun
5	2p61-22	PREBEN FUR (BF) (W Peacock) G Richards 7-11-3	D Coakley
6	0-22311	STRAWHILL (C,D) (Mrs L Ford) E Alston 9-11-1 (6 ex)	K Doolan 4
9	u/1p34u	BITTERMAN (D) (P Warters) J Jefferson 7-10-0	C Grant
10	4-33203	WHO'S FREE (D,B) (I Pearson) J Charlton 9-10-0	J J O'Neill

1983: Final Argument 7-11-7 J J O'Neill (4-7 fav) G Richards 8 ran.

13-8 Preben Fur, 3 Strawhill, 4 Twiflight, 5 Succeeded, 16 Who's Free, Bitterman.

2.15 HEADS NOOK NOVICE CHASE (£892: 2m 4f) (16)

1	/0-fu01	SHINEY SON (Mrs A Brown) W A Stephenson 6-11-10	R Lamb
5	0/0000-	BINGE (J Aynsley) J Aynsley 8-11-3	D Coakley
7	04-10	CHARLES DUKE (J Morrison) G Richards 7-11-3	N Doughty
8	0003up-	COOLADIEU (R Jackson) T Barnes 7-11-3	M Barnes
9	p0-ff	COOL TRICKSTER (J Ball) R Jeffrey 8-11-3	J Hansen 4
10	1041-24	FRENCH LORD (BF) (Mrs L Meylam) G Richards 6-11-3	N Doughty
12		HAZY DAY (I Duncan) W A Stephenson 5-11-3	K Jones
13	0000/8f	KINGLSEY HOUSE (G Dawes) G Moore 6-11-3	D Dutton
15		LIGHT DEMON (G Richards) G Richards 6-11-3	J K Kinane
16	p/pf	MARMALITE (Miss J Salkeld) Miss J Salkeld 9-11-3	K Doolan 4
18	f/	ROYAL JET (G Fairbairn) G Fairbairn 7-11-3	C Grant
19	30/02-3	SECONDARY IMAGE (H Lambert) J Fitzgerald 8-11-3	M Dwyer
20	1-41324	SUPREME BID (Lord Cadogan) N Crump 7-11-3	R Balfour 7
22	3100-02	THE DIVIDER (J Aitken) Mrs T Calder 6-11-3	T G Dun
24	0000-00	VICTORY MORN (exors late J Dixon) J Dixon 8-11-3	–
25	000p	CELIA (Mrs J Robinson) J Robinson 6-10-12	Mr R Robinson 4

1983: Sir Marcus 7-11-3 Mr T Reed (10-1) W Reed 11 ran.

5-2 French Lord, 3 The Divider, 7-2 Secondary Image, 13-2 Shiney Son, Charles Duke, 10 Supreme Bid, 14 others.

2.45 CALDBECK NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £538: 2m 330yd) (15)

2	0-0	ABBEY BOY (R Johnston) T Barnes 5-11-0	M Barnes
4	33p-00	BOARDMANS CORONET (Major J Rubin) G Richards 6-11-0	N Doughty
5	0	BUSK FIZZ (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 4-11-0	M Maguire 4
7	04	GUN-CARRIAGE (Mrs G Jones) A W Jones 4-11-0	T Wall
8	40-	LISAILY (Mrs P Meredith) N Bycroft 4-11-0	P Tuck
9	00	LUCKY PEN (Mrs H Ballard) K Stone 4-11-0	A Brown
10	000-000	ROYAL GLOW (I Rodden) R Gray 5-11-0	J Allen
12	03-0	UPTOWN (A Batey) A Batey 4-11-0	Mr J Quinn 7
13	030	BANNOW BURN (Mrs L Carr) K Oliver 4-10-9	Mr P J Dun
14	00p	BRIGHT SUGGESTION (T Goldie) G Goldie 6-10-9	Mr J M Dun 7
15		DRAKE HOUSE (Mrs A Chippendale) E Alston 4-10-9	M Alston 7
17	/0002-0	HEARTBREAK HOTEL (Mrs B Butterworth) Mrs B Butterworth 6-10-9	Mrs B Butterworth
18	0-34f00	JARALL (J Mitchell) J Mitchell 4-10-9	D McCaskill
19		PIPPIN GILL (Mrs A Bell) Mrs A Bell 9-10-9	D Nolan
20		TUVALU (J Robinson) J Robinson 4-10-9	Mr R Robinson 4

1983: Colonel Rose 5-11-0 Mr J Dun (20-1) T Goldie 16 ran.

9-4 Boardman's Coronet, 3 Gun-Carriage, 4 Lisaily, 11-2 Bannow Burn, 8 Busk Fizz, 12 Heartbreak Hotel, 16 others.

3.15 LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,280: 2m 4f) (12)

1	/00-142	STARLIGHT ROCKY (Miss Z Green) Miss Z Green 8-11-10	Mr C Storey 7
2	313-1f0	THE MAN HIMSELF (E Briggs) G Richards 4-11-7	N Doughty
3	330u0-0	LEWIS HOMES (T Webster) Mrs S Webster 10-11-7	W Beardwood
4	34224-0	MAYANNCOR (J Lees) S Leadbetter 6-11-4	A Brown
5	3123/0-	PEN ROYAL (J Smith) T Craig 7-11-2	M Ennis
6	0000/12	ABERCATA (C) (Miss J Salkeld) Miss J Salkeld 12-11-1	J D Davies 7
7	1000-03	COLONEL ROSE (C) (T Goldie) T Goldie 7-11-1	Mr J M Dun 7
8	44102F-	WORTHY HEIRESS (C) (E Robson) E Robson 8-10-13	C Pimlott
9	1p1-400	CUT'N DRY (C) (Miss M Rouiston) J Mason 4-10-13	M Pepper
10	410	FLYING OATS (C) (W McGhie) W McGhie 4-10-11	J J O'Neill
11	/p0-1u3	NIGHT ERRANT (C) (D MacDonald) D MacDonald 8-10-6	M Barnes
17	0000-00	COOL THOMAS (H Rebanks) H Rebanks 5-10-0	–

1983: On Leave 6-11-7 C Brownless (6-4 fav) A Scott 10 ran.

7-4 The Man Himself, 7-2 Flying Oats, 9-2 Abercata, 13-2 Colonel Rose, 8 Starlight Rocky, Mayanncor, 12 others.

Worcester results

1.0 (2m hdle) 1, SAILOR'S DANCE (J Duggan, 8-11 fav); 2, Tribal Drum (R Linley, 7-2); 3, Meuleodor (R Hyett, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 11 Torymore Green (6th), 25 New Song, Mountain Mear (5th), 33 Bantude (4th), Wildwood Moss, 50 Muse Julie Brown, 66 Boardmans Supremo, Burlington Lad, Courbers Wag (pu), Golden Raider, Mutanjis Swift, Rouchanal (pu), Another Space (pu), Branksome Towers, Ivy Royal (pu), La Vetta, Matts Music (pu). NR: Rodinet, Cherry Side. 20 ran. 1l, 10l, 8l, 7l, 1½l. F Winter at Lambourn. TOTE: £1.70; £1.10, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £2.10. CSF: £3.82.

1.30 (3m) 1, BEN LAIR (R Pusey, 13-8 fav); 2, Seven Acres (N Babbage, 33-1); 3, Come on Sunny (P Finch, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Only for Love (5th), 13-2 Parish Righted (pu), 10 Brit, Ayle Hero (ur), 16 Miner Bird (ur), 20 Kelly's Honour (pu), 25 Fennelly, Boro Bossy (6th), 50 Arctic Mariner (4th), Final Word (pu), Smoker (pu), Lakefield (pu), Morgans Gold (fell), Miss Fidget (fell), Emerald Flight (pu). 18 ran. ½l, 2l, 20l, 2l, 4l. F Walwyn at Lambourn. TOTE: £3.60; £1.80, £2.90, £5.40. DF: £37.10. CSF: £46.98.

2.00 (2m 2f hdle) 1, ROBAND (R Arnott, 4-1 fav); 2, Queensbury Joe (J Hurst, 14-1); 3, No Flake (C Smith, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Sarena Plastics (4th), Solitaire, Good Investment (5th), 8 Tudor Fun (P/U), 9 Rainbow Springs (6th), 10 Bellamuse (P/U), 16 Warwick Blue, 20 Gerard Lane (Fell), 25 Miss Black Glama (P/U), 33 Acton Iron (Fell), Lost Land (P/U), Young Lofty (P/U). 15 ran. 1½l, 2l, 15l, 8l, 2l. C James at Newbury. TOTE: £9.60; £3.40, £5.00, £1.70. DF: £526.80. CSF: £60.71. Bought in 2,100 gns.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, CHARTER PARTY (P Scudamore, 11-2); 2, Lord Leighton (B Powell, 6-1), 3, Royal Admiral (H Davies, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Rupertino, 7 Solid Rock (4th), 8 Sailor's Return (5th), Staunton (P/U), 14 Bonum Omen (P/U), Rocket Berry (6th), 16 Pitham (P/U), 33 Bossell (P/U). 11 ran. 7l, 10l, 3l, 2½l, 6l. D Nicholson at Stow-On-The-Wold. TOTE: £5.60; £2.90, £2.10, £2.50. DF: £14.20. CSF: £35.65. TRICAST: £187.23.

3.0 (2m ch) 1, HOPEFUL ANSWER (J Duggan, 3-1); 2, Awning (G. Charles-Jones, 20-1); 3, Spartiquick (R Trevor-Jones, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Crack A Joke (ur), 5 My Always (ur), 8 Pomposity (4th), 10 Gymer (pu). 7 ran. 2l, 2l, dist. G Balding at Weyhill. TOTE: £3.90; £2.00, £5.10. DF: £44.70. CSF: £44.15.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, RUTHS MAGIC (Colin Price, 12-1); 2, James My Boy (J A Harris, 2-1 fav); 3, Sparlamo (S Morshead, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Little Sark (pu), 7 Ariano, 8 Silver Keys (5th), 12 Monclare Trophy, 14 Mark Palmer (6th), 16 My Name is Nobody, 20 The Hostzib, True Minstrel (pu), 33 Alangrove Sound, Baliver Prince, Foresters Lad, Proud Pilgrim (4th), Shesto, Stargaze (pu), Midnight Fox (pu), Scalleen (pu), Woodland Retreat (pu). 20 ran. NR: Rika Mia, Sharavogue. 1½l, 4l, 1½l, 1½l, ½l. G M Price at Brecon. TOTE: £11.90; £2.40, £1.10, £4.70. DF: £16.40. CSF: £36.53. Placepot: £20.15.

Catterick Bridge

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, PITTENCRIEFF (J. B. Davies, 11-4); 2, Kindred (Jayne Thompson, 11-10 FAV); 3, Belle Vue (D. Carcary, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 15-2 Claymore (6th), 16 Andy Lou (5th), 33 Malseedy, Hannehman (4th). 7 ran. 2½l, 2½l, 7l, 7l, 7l. E Weymes at Leyburn. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £1.10. DF: £2.10. CSF: £6.36. No bid.

1.15 (2m hdle) 1, CONNAUGHT QUEEN (N Doughty, 9-2); 2, Fudge Delight (M Brennan, 6-1); 3, Matabele (R Lamb, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 Fav Don't Annoy Me (U.R.), 3 Stone Jug (5th), 8 Air Command, 14; Seesell (6th), 25 Pay Zone, 33 Busorm, Rotherleigh (4th), Sagart Aroon, Medic Sovereign (FELL). 12 ran. 2½l, 3l, 15l, hdl, 3l. G. Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £5.20; £1.00, £2.10, £4.40. £17.80. CSF: £34.07

1.45 (3m 300yd ch) 1, BLUE REEF (Mr P J Dun, 15-8 fav); 2, Jethart's Here (C Pimlott, 9-2); 3, Snow Blessed (C Grant, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Six Times (5th), 7 Bush Guide (6th), 10-1 Door Step (4th) 6 ran. NR: Cavity Hunter. 1½l, 15l, 1l, 4l, 7l. W A Stephenson at Bishop Auckland. Tote: £4.30; £2.50, £2.20. DF: £9.00. CSF: £10.14.

2.15 (2m ch) 1, KILROE'S CALIN (R O'Leary, 4-6 fav); 2, Empress Jeannie (A Stringer, 4-1); 3, Joyful Star (J J O'Neill, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 10 Kelsey Lady (fell), Mainsforth Queen (fell), 25 Bright Imp (5th), Ladycross (6th), Mendelita (pu), 100 Cresta Crossett (pu), Wayz Goose (4th) at 10 ran. 10l, 15l, 10, 8l, 2½l. J FitzGerald at Malton. Tote: £1.40, £1.10, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £5.10 CSF: £4.26.

2.45 (3m hdle) 1, STENOGAR (Mr T Easterby, 9-4 fav); 2, Pitcraivie (Mr K Toner, 7-1); 3, Minnie Burgh (Mr T Read, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Sheckle Pin (6th), 7 Avon Oak, 8 Clanned (b.d), 10 Satamiller, 11 Little Mittens, 14 Mainz Brig (p.u), Vino Festa (5th), 16 Esteem (p.u), Grouse Beater (p.u), 20 Wishbone Whisper (p.u), 25 Carrigtohill, Cottage Leas (4th), Frosty Touch, 33 Goldilocks, Hartleap (fell), Highway Gold (p.u), The Newton Star, 50 Ingatestone (p.u), Portia's Last, Royal Tattoo (p.u). 23 ran. 7l, 8l, 3l, ½l, 4l. M H Easterby at Gt Habton. TOTE: £3.20; £2.00, £2.50, £15.50. DF: £18.90. CSF: £26.22.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, MILORE (M Brennan, 12-1); 2, Private Label (P A Charlton, 5-1 fav); 3, Border Tinker (M Barnes, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Mr Perfect, 4 Caballeros, 6 Amadis (4th) 10 Scotlen (5th) The Ridings, Verbarium 6th, 14 Archimboldo, Castle Official, 25 Travel Home, 33 Flower Bruse, Royal Merlin, Sandifoot, Kollel, Minnie the Moocher, Will be Wanton, Bridgit's Girl. 19 ran. 8l, ½l, 5l, 4l, sh-hd. O Brennan at Newmarket. TOTE: £11.80; £3.30, £1.60, £3.30. DF: £22.40. CSF: £54.84. PLACEPOT: £33.00.

Course specialists

CARLISLE

TRAINERS: N Bycroft 8 winners from 13 runners, 61.5%; G Richards 38 from 191, 19.9%; W A Stephenson 24 from 190, 12.6%.
JOCKEYS: J J O'Neill 25 winners from 113 rides, 22.1%; N Doughty 19 from 101; 18.8%; C Pimlott 9 from 62, 14.5%.

HEREFORD

TRAINERS: Mrs M Rimell 13 winners from 61 runners, 21.3%; K Bailey 10 from 65, 15.4%; D Nicholson 8 from 54, 14.8%.
JOCKEYS: S Morshead 22 winners from 96 rides, 22.9%; P Scudamore 19 from 93, 20.4%; A Webber 9 from 62, 14.5%.

Sporting books for Christmas

A Victorian Wisden rises from the Ashes

By Marcus Williams

Benson and Hedges Cricket Year (Pelham, £12.95)
West Indies Cricket Annual 1984 (Caribbean Communications, £2.90)
John Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack for 1884 (Willows Publishing, £22

Although the *Benson and Hedges Cricket Year* has reached its third edition, it remains a source of wonderment that two months after the end of the English season there is available a comprehensive record of it and all other major cricket throughout the world in the previous 12 months. The secret is, of course, that the book is collated throughout the year, as each overseas season progresses, leaving the domestic events to be added before the deadline.

The 1984 edition maintains the high standard of its predecessors and if there is space only to give potted scores of matches outside Tests, one-day internationals and competition finals, there is more than adequate compensation in the superb colour and monochrome photographs. Serving as an *hors d'oeuvre* to this highly palatable dish is a thought-provoking comment on intimidatory bowling by Tony Lewis, the assistant editor to David Lemmon.

Benson and Hedges also lend their support to the *West Indies Cricket Annual 1984*, now in its fifteenth year. The editor, Tony Cozier, has assembled the customary detailed coverage of Caribbean cricket in words, statistics and pictures.

The ambition of most cricket book collectors is to own a complete set of *Wisden*, which was first published in 1846 and is now regarded as the game's "bible". Soaring prices for originals have forced all but the wealthiest – or longest standing – collectors out of the market, but now an enterprising company in Staffordshire has undertaken to reprint all the years from 1879 to 1890 (the first 15 editions have twice been reproduced by Wisden's publishers). The second of their offerings, John *Wisden's Cricket Almanack for 1884*, in a limited edition of 500, is handsomely produced on fine quality paper and bound in brown cloth with gilt lettering.

It features reports of the Hon. Ivo Bligh Tour to Australia, during which the Ashes urn was created, as well as the main English matches of 1883. The advertisements, especially for John Wisden's own newly patented Catapulta (bowling machine) and Rowlands's chemical preparations for the teeth and hair, make fascinating, diversonary reading, and a circulation list appended to the draft amended laws of cricket – England, Victoria, New South Wales, Philadelphia, New York, Oxford and Cambridge – illustrates the limited scope of the organized game a century ago.

Wisden's editor in 1884 was George H West, who was also cricket correspondent of *The Times*: history is repeated 100 years later in the person of a respected colleague, John Woodcock.

A big hit with two centuries

By Simon Wilde

Who's Who of Cricketers by Philip Bailey, Philip Thorn and Peter Wynne-Thomas (Newnes Books, £30)

Described by its publishers as "perhaps the greatest event in cricket publishing since the first *Wisden*", which was 120 years ago, the *Who's Who of Cricketers* cannot be treated lightly as an addition to sporting literature – or physically, for that matter. Running to 1,444 pages, this weighty tome, containing entries for everyone who has appeared in first-class cricket in Britain, is nevertheless worth its every ounce in gold.

From Thomas White, who walked to the middle for England in 1771 with a bat the width of the stumps, to Steve O'Shaughnessy, who equalled a world record with a century in 35 minutes on the last day of the 1983 season against lax bowlers intent only on saving their club a hefty fine, it encapsulates a myriad facets of English life across two centuries though expediency has perhaps always been among them. Who could not be a little surprised, though, to find included such dignitaries as Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Douglas Bader, a grandson of Queen Victoria, and Samuel Beckett? The minor entries – in cricketing terms – are the real nuggets in this mine.

The authors are three prominent members of the Association of Cricket Statisticians. The Association was formed in 1973 in order to draw up, first, a precise list of first-class matches, as none had hitherto existed, and then a register of first-class cricketers. A vast amount of biographical information has been unearthed and many revisions made to previously accepted details. The mantle of supreme authority would be sure to sit forever upon this book and subsequent editions were it not that Robert Brooke, the ASC's driving force in its early years, has compiled his own, three-volume, work, *The Collins Who's Who of First-class cricket*, to be published next summer.

There is an endless joy in discovery. Which county cricketer died, at the age of 26, on the day he was due to be married? Whose ultimate first-class appearance was 32 years earlier than his last?



Band of hope: the promising Annabel Croft, of Britain, photographed by Tommy Hindley in the well illustrated souvenir of Wimbledon 1984

Pictures to savour from Wimbledon

By Rex Bellamy

The Championships, Wimbledon 1984 by John Parsons, Pavilion Books, £9.95)
The Official Duffers Rules of Tennis (by Bob Adams, Columbus Books, £2.50)
Squash Rackets Association Annual (edited by Larry Halpin, Pelham Books, £7.95)

The pictorial aspect of modern tennis reporting is underrated, simply because most of us fancy ourselves as critics of the written word but relatively few have the technical knowledge to appreciate a photographer's skill in capturing momentary subjects. Photographers of all levels will find something to their taste in the educational pleasures of *The Championships, Wimbledon 1984*, which has 160 large pages.

This official annual, authorized by the All England Club, has been swiftly but smartly produced for the Christmas market. Haste was essential, too, because such a volume "dates" quickly. It can be recommended for a striking assembly of photographs, in colour and black and white, which were mostly taken by Tommy Hindley during those periods of comparative calm when his labours were not inhibited by badinage with John McEnroe and others.

John Parsons contributes a linking text of bland, comprehensive daily reports that, taken as a whole, provide a compact permanent record of last summer's Wimbledon. An appendix gives all the 1984 results, plus a list of previous champions and runners-up.

The author will be the first to take pleasure in the fact that, for a change, Hindley and his photographic colleagues have been granted starring roles. In browsing among this delightful gallery, we can even forgive the sight of Catherine Tanvier playing left-handed. Presumabley somebody misbehaved with Miss Tanvier in the dark room.

Illustrations, in this case cartoons, also form the basis of *The Official Duffer's Rules of Tennis*. This 80 page book is totally committed to being funny but (for one reviewer, anyway) totally fails. Humour is an elusive target for writer and artist but one reader's yawn may be another's belly-laugh.

The 292-page *Squash Rackets Association Annual* boldly reaches for a wider market than usual by the use of larger type, a more lavish array of illustrations (some in colour) biographies of England's leading men, and an increased emphasis on articles.

Reports features, and reference material have been neatly and brightly packaged but potential buyers may be put off by the annual's price and its rather exclusive nature. One would like the biographical notes to be extended to the women and the list of international players to be extended to the Irish, the Scots and the Welsh.

It seems illogical, too, that although the annual records the championships of all three Armed Services, it ignores the more important Combined Services individual championship and the Inter-Services team event. The annual also needs either an index or a more comprehensive table of contents.

In the past 20 years no club has meant more to the game than that at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, where a variety of big events have been promoted with an efficiency that blends top-class squash with the spirit of laughter. Abbeydale's fiftieth anniversary celebrations included the publication of 152-page domestic history that can be obtained from the club for £5.

Not so much a bad player more a funny writer

By Alan Gibson

Caught Short of the Boundary, and Other Fall Stories by Henry Blofeld (Stanley Paul, £6.95).

A fair few years ago, I was sitting over a pint or several in the County Ground Hotel, Bristol, with D. M. Green and A. R. Lewis, philosophers both (Gloucestershire were playing Glamorgan). Green being an Oxford man and Lewis a Cambridge, we proceeded to select the *worst* XI of cricketers who had won Blues at either university since the war. Before long, the name Blofeld cropped up, and was eagerly seized upon by the philosophers, but having met him and liked him, I put in a word for him, pointing out that he had scored a lot of runs for Norfolk in a Gillette Cup match a week or two before. This ensured his exclusion from the list of the damned.

We were being unjust to Henry, who must have been a pretty good batsman, though a serious accident (when, according to one of his constantly varying accounts, he happened to charge an advancing steam-roller head-on) preventing his full development ("Only half a stomach left, though fortunately the more vital parts were spared"). He had, prior to the disaster, scored a century for the Public Schools against the Combined Services, going in at No 7.

Henry went to Eton and King's, in the family tradition, though he had to leave King's early, for reasons more connected with his academic than his physical health. Not that he was dim. It was just that there were more interesting things, cricket and gin and girls, which required prior attention.

Before long he began to make a reputation as a writer, and later as a broadcaster. He did both well, and gradually acquired a widespread geographical connection with radio stations and newspapers (though I think *The Guardian* has always been his favourite). He has invariably been subjected to casual but impish questions as to how his latest composition for the *Aberdeen Adverstiser*, the *Estonian Echo*, the *Queensland Quest* or the *Zanzibar Zealot* is coming along. He takes all of this in the most bonhomous of spirits. In broadcasting, his Eton/King's aristocratic drawl has become almost as famous, in its own way, as John Arlott's earthy Hampshire accent.

I am writing about him because he has produced a book, which, as the jacket says, is "not so much a cricketing book, more an absolute scandal". It describes, among other things, the night he spent in an American goal after assaulting (ie smacking on the bottom) an American girl friend who had spurned him. It is quite funny, where it can be believed, and even funnier where it cannot. It is worth reading. I had the feeling that his account of his argument with Botham (Botham thumped him, and Henry was alarmed because there was a brick wall a couple of inches behind his head) is fairly accurate. The front cover of the book has a cartoon of Botham and Henry dancing arm-in-arm. The cartoons are the only disappointing part of the book: clumsy and unhumorous. You cannot say that of Henry's prose.

Compelling echoes of cricket's 'voice'

By Ivo Tennant

Arlott on cricket by John Arlott (Collins Willow, £10.95)

To follow a collection of E W Swanton's prose, Collins Willow have brought out *Arlott on cricket: His Writings on the Game*. It is as well produced and edited, or "exhumed" as the author interpolates in his preface. Some of the articles had long been forgotten by Arlott if not, no doubt, by his many admirers.

Probably only Swanton rivals Arlott in words spoken and written on cricket since the Second World War. The cognoscenti have generally considered Arlott to be firstly a broadcaster and secondly a journalist. He was tagged with "the voice of cricket", not "the pen of cricket." Yet there can be few who doubt – especially after reading this book – that he would also make the first XI of the game's writers.

Many of the pieces, selected by David Rayvern Allen, first appeard in benefit brochures, handbooks and magazines. Their range is wide. Arlott is as compelling when dissecting Boycott's character as he is lauding the Hambledon men. He has rarely been polarized on cricketing matters. Like the true Liberal he is, Arlott's outlook is tempered by reason, compassion and generosity.

Of his work, Arlott says in the preface: "No writer can alter the history, but only reflect it: thus these pieces show the vast change – not for the worst, but simply different – between the 1946 attempt to recreate the cricket scene of 1939; and that of 1984. Cricket has always changed in harmony with its social background."

Arlott's staggering capacity for work is exemplified by his being the author or editor of more than 80 books and pamphlets, the best of these, he will tell you, was his biography of Fred Trueman. If his selection can be criticized, it is for not including a passage from it.

Triumphs and tragedies afloat

By John Nicholls

Great Yacht Races by Bob Fier (Orbis Publishing £30)
Single Handed by The Observer (Ebury Press, £12.95)

By this time next year, competitors in the 1985-86 Whitbread Round the World race will be somewhere in the Southern Ocean, making for Auckland at the end of their second leg. If previous form for the race is followed, one or two boats will already have retired, probably with broken masts. At best, crews will be feeling merely uncomfortable and apprehensive among the icebergs; at worst, they may be mutinous.

Until a few weeks ago it looked as if this British-inspired and organized race would be without a British entry for the first time. Fewer owners than before seem prepared to set off just for the hell of it an to mount a serious challenge now that costs are far more than most can afford to spend. Sponsorship may yet come to the rescue, but that is becoming harder to find. Soon it will be too late for potential skippers to consider any but existing boats, so that, given a British starter, it is unlikely there will be a British winner.

The latest entry list does however, include three British efforts, although two of them still depend on attracting some help from sponsors. The one apparent certainty is for a so-far unspecified yacht underwritten by Simon Le Bon, a member of the pop group Duran Duran. Le Bon admits to being a yachting novice, but insists the boat and crew will be competitive. No doubt sponsors will rally round to help him on his way.

Previous races have been well covered at the time and are now summarized in *Great Yacht Races* Bob Fisher describes all three held so far, listing the triumphs and the tragedies (three men lost overboard in 1974) and describes how the event has changed from being a fairly cautious venture into the unknown in 1973-4 to a flat-out sprint down each leg last time.

As the title of the book suggests, it covers more than just Round the World races. All the big international events of the past century are covered.

One of the best documented sections covers the single-handed transatlantic race which can truly be described as one of ocean racing's classics. This event was the first of many short-handed races and, after 25 years, rates at definitive book of its own. Called *Single Handed* it has been compiled by *The Observer*, sponsors of the race every four years since 1960.

It too is a plush publication, equally as impressive as *Great Yacht Races*, though in a slightly smaller format. The various sections were written by a mixture of *The Observer* reporters, competitors and others who followed the races through the years.

Although *The Observer* Single-handed Trans Atlantic Race has inevitably become intensively competitive, it still attracts a sizeable number of sailors, men and women, who compete for reasons other than that of winning.

In this respect it is probably unique and few, if any, other races include such a wide variety of craft and competitors. Contrast, for example, the food carried by one weight-conscious skipper: One Royal Marine Arctic one-day ration pack for every two days (estimated) of the voyage; with the haunch of lamb, Burgundy ham and seven gallons of wine taken by someone who clearly meant to enjoy himself.

A genuine rival to Rothmans

By Paul Newman

The League Club Directory 1985 (Newnes Books, £5.95)
Canon League Football Players' Records (Newnes Books, £10.95)

The *Rothmans Football Yearbook*, which for many years was unchallenged as the game's leading annual reference work, has in recent times faced increasing competition. The latest rival is *The League Club Directory 1985*, which attempts to corner one aspect of the market by concentrating on the clubs themselves rather than on international football or domestic and European cup competitions.

The directory devotes six pages to every club in the Canon League and gives a comprehensive record of their preformances last season. There are also complete playing records of every professional in the League and the inclusion of birth dates and transfer fees – which are not in the current *Rothmans* – is particularly welcome.

Programme collectors will find the book useful as it gives details of contents and how to order programmes. The best aspect of the book, however, is the information for visiting supporters. For every club there is a ground plan and details of ticket prices and how to get there by road. The only significant omission is information on rail travel.

Newnes Books have also published *Canon League Football Players' Records*, which is a welcome update of a book first issued by Rothmans three years ago. It gives complete career records of appearances and goals of every footballer to have played in the League since 1946 and is a superb reference work.

One of the few faults of the first book was its division into two sections, one for past players and one for present; a number of "present" players in particular never actually appeared again in the League. The new edition eliminates any confusion by simply listing all the players in alphabetical order.

What is disappointing about the book is the republication of many of the original 400 biographies of the most prominent players since the war. Those of contemporary players have been updated, but apart from some minor rewording the others are unchanged and even the same photographs have been used. Duplication of much of the statistical information was inevitable, but the remaining space might have been better used for biographies of players not included in the original edition.

Law Report December 20 1984 Court of Appeal

Budget undertaking a Community Treaty

Regina v Her Majesty's Treasury, Ex parte Smedley

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd

[Judgment delivered December 19]

The Court of Appeal considered the respective roles of Parliament and the courts in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by William Oliver Smedley from Mr Justice Woolf's dismissal on December 7 (*The Times*, December 8) of his application for judicial review and, *inter alia*, an order to quash the determination or intended determination by her Majesty's Treasury that the undertaking referred to in the draft Statutory Instrument, The European Communities (Definition of Treaties) (Undertaking on the Supplementary Finance for the Community) Order 1984, could properly be regarded and specified as a Community Treaty as defined in section 1 (2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

Section 1 (2) of the 1972 Act provides: "In this Act... 'the Treaties' or 'the Community Treaties' means, subject to subsection (3) below, the pre-accession treaties, that is to say those described in... Schedule 1 to this Act, taken with (a) the treaty relating to the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Economic Community... and any other treaty... entered into, as a treaty ancillary to any of the Treaties, by the United Kingdom..."

By subsection (3): "If her Majesty by Order in Council declares that a treaty specified in the Order is to be regarded as one of the Community Treaties as herein defined, the Order shall be conclusive that it is to be so regarded; but a treaty entered into by the United Kingdom after January 22, 1972... shall not be so regarded unless it is so specified, nor be so specified unless a draft of the Order in Council has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament."

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Mr Leolin Price, QC, Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr T. M. Ashe for Mr Smedley; Mr John Laws for the Treasury.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr Smedley sought the assistance of the court as a British taxpayer and elector. He was troubled by the expressed intention of the Treasury to pay the European Community a sum in excess of £121.5 million out of the Consolidated Fund and to do so without seeking the authority of Parliament in the form of an Appropriating Act or similar statute.

It could seem that the Treasury proposed to operate the special procedure provided by section 1 of the 1972 Act which involved laying a draft Order in Council before Parliament and if that draft Order was approved by affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament and an Order in Council was in fact made in those terms, to make the payment on the authority of section 2(3) of the Act.

The matter in issue had been fully argued and there could be and was no complaint that the courts or the practitioners had been dilatory.

It followed from the statutory provisions that if her Majesty by Order in Council, the draft of which had previously been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament, were to declare that an international agreement was to be regarded as one of the Community Treaties, the Treasury would without further authority be entitled to make any payments called for by that agreement.

On November 19, 1984, a draft Order in Council was laid before both Houses of Parliament. It specified the undertaking made by the representatives of the Governments of the member States meeting within the Council on October 2 and 3 to make payments to the Community in 1984 to finance a supplementary and amending budget as being a treaty to be regarded as a Community Treaty as defined in Section 1 (2) of the 1972 Act.

Although the United Kingdom had no written constitution, it was a constitutional convention of the highest importance that the legislature and the judicature were separate and independent of one another, subject to certain ultimate rights of Parliament over the judicature which were immaterial for present purposes.

It behoved the courts to be ever sensitive to the paramount need to refrain from trespassing upon the province of Parliament or, so far as that could be avoided, even appearing to do so. His Lordship would hope and expect that Parliament would be similarly sensitive to the need to refrain from trespassing upon the province of the courts.

It would clearly be a breach of the constitutional conventions for any court to express any view, let alone take any action, concerning the decision to lay the draft Order in Council before Parliament or concerning the wisdom or otherwise of Parliament approving the draft. Equally there could be no possible constitutional objection to Parliament debating the draft merely because the court was seized of Mr Smedley's complaint. The exercises were essentially different.

The submission that at the stage when no Order in Council had been made or could yet be made it was premature for the court to consider Mr Smedley's application had force but it required further examination.

It was the function of Parliament to legislate and legislation was necessarily in written form. It was the function of the courts to construe and interpret that legislation. In popular language, it was for Parliament to make the laws and for the courts to tell the nation including members of both Houses of Parliament, what those laws meant.

While Parliament was entirely independent of the courts in its freedom to enact whatever legislation it saw fit, legislation by Order in Council, statutory instrument or other subordinate means was in quite a different category, not being Parliamentary legislation.

Subordinate legislation was subject to some degree of judicial control in the sense that it was within the province and authority of the courts to hold that particular examples were not authorized by statute, or by the common law and so were without legal effect.

At present there was no Order in Council to which Mr Smedley could object as being unauthorized. It seemed likely that, if both Houses approved the draft order, her Majesty would be advised to make and would make an order in the terms of the draft, whereupon the courts would without doubt be competent to consider whether or not the order was properly made in the sense of being *intra vires*.

Similar considerations as in *R v Electricity Commissioners* ([1924] 1 KB 171) applied in the present case. It was clear from the terms of the undertaking that the provision of money was considered a matter of urgency. If Mr Smedley's application were deferred until both Houses had considered whether each approved the draft Order in Council, the court would have contributed an avoidable period of delay should the correct view be that an Order in Council in terms of the draft would be valid and to what might be thought a waste of parliamentary time if the correct view was that such an Order in Council would be invalid.

The essence of Mr Smedley's complaint was that the undertaking to make the payment to the European Community was not a "treaty ancillary to any of the Treaties" within the meaning of that phrase in section 1 (2) of the 1972 Act.

The concept of one treaty being "ancillary" to another was not one of precision. Quite apart from whether a particular instrument would otherwise be regarded as "ancillary" to the Community Treaties, Parliament had retained the right to prevent it being so regarded by refusing to approve the draft Order in Council designed to achieve that result.

The sole question for the court was whether the Order in Council, if made, would or would not be *intra vires* the power conferred by Parliament upon those who would make it. That power must be assumed to be limited to making an Order in Council in relation to an agreement which could properly be regarded as ancillary to the Community Treaties.

It was said that the undertaking conflicted with some of the provisions of the Community Treaties. His Lordship did not consider that there was any such inconsistency between the undertaking and the Treaties.

Community instruments were not expressed against the background of English canons of construction: see *per* Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in *Bulmer Ltd v Bollinger SA* ([1974] Ch 401). The Community Treaties were designed to express principles. The relevant principle was that the Community budget should so far as possible, and thus usually, be entirely financed out of the Community's own resources, but not that in all circumstances it must be so financed.

In the view of the member States, unusual circumstances had arisen in 1984 which gave rise to the need for a supplementary and amending budget. A temporary departure from the guiding principle set out in the Community Treaties did not seem to be in any way inconsistent with the undertaking being properly regarded as ancillary to the Community Treaties.

His Lordship thought that an Order in Council in the terms of the draft would quite plainly be *intra vires* the order making power and would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, agreeing, said that he had little doubt that Mr Smedley, if only in his capacity as a taxpayer, had sufficient *locus standi*, to raise the question in issue by way of judicial review. Applying *R v Electricity Commissioners* (at p213) his Lordship would reject the submission that the application was premature and that no decision should be made in relation to it at the present stage.

Two points were clear. Any attack by Mr Smedley on the proposed Order in Council had to be based on the proposed exercise of the discretion of her Majesty in Council. If it were to succeed it must be shown to fall within the *Wednesbury* principle ([1948] 1KB 223).

The phrase "ancillary to" in section 1(2) of the 1972 Act was an imprecise expression of wide and somewhat uncertain import.

His Lordship was not convinced that the undertaking would necessarily conflict with the provisions of the Community Treaties when read as a whole. Any agreement which was ancillary to an earlier agreement might well involve some variation of that agreement and so, in one sense a measure of conflict with it. That did not inevitably prevent the subsequent agreement being properly described as "ancillary" to the earlier agreement.

It must be a question of degree according to the facts of each case. It was just the sort of point which the legislature by the 1972 Act had seen fit to leave to her Majesty in Council to decide, subject to the parliamentary power to veto.

Lord Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Bower Cotton & Bower; Treasury Solicitor.

Juvenile court priority over wards in care

In re K (a minor)

Before Mrs Justice Heilbron

[Judgment delivered December 14]

The welfare of a ward of court in the care of a local authority was served best by the avoidance of a multiplicity of proceedings in different courts and when a local authority desired to place a ward in its care in secure accommodation the local authority was required to make application first to the juvenile court under the provisions of section 21 A of the Child Care Act 1980. The appropriate time to make application to the wardship jurisdiction was after and not before the authorization of the juvenile court.

Mrs Justice Heilbron so stated in the Family Division in considering a summons for directions seeking clarification of the procedure to be adopted.

Section 21 A of the Child Care Act 1980 provides–"(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a child in the care of a local authority may not be placed, and, if placed, may not be kept, in accommodation provided for the purpose of restricting liberty unless it appears– (a) that – (i) he has a history of absconding and is likely to abscond from any other description of accommodation; and (ii) if he absconds, it is likely that his physical, mental or moral welfare will be at risk; or (b) that if he is kept in any other description of accommodation he is likely to injure himself or other persons.

"(2) The secretary of state may by regulations – (a) specify – (i) a maximum period beyond which a child may not be kept in such accommodation without the authority of a juvenile court; and (ii) a maximum period for which a juvenile court may authorize a child to be kept in such accommodation;... and (c) provide that applications to a juvenile court under this section shall be made by local authorities.

"(3) It shall be the duty of a juvenile court before which a child is brought by virtue of this section to determine whether any relevant criteria for keeping a child in accommodation provided for the purpose of restricting liberty are satisfied in his case; and if a court determines that any such criteria are satisfied, it shall make an order authorizing the child to be kept in such accommodation and specifying the maximum period for which he may be so kept."

Mr Mark Hedley for the local authority; Mr Andrew Blake for the *guardian ad litem*.

MRS JUSTICE HEILBRON said that the local authority desired to place a boy, a ward of court, aged 16½, in a custodial placement at a youth training centre for at least 12 months. The discretion of a local authority to restrict the liberty of children in care was now severely limited and subject to careful scrutiny by the juvenile court following the provisions of section 21A of the Child Care Act 1980 and the Secure Accommodation (No 2) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1308).

Section 21A was a replacement section which was substituted in the 1980 Act by section 9 of the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983. The section together with the regulations came into force on January 1, 1984. The section applied to wards of court committed to the care of a local authority by virtue of section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

The local authority sought directions relating to K because of the apparent conflict of judicial opinion relating to procedure.

The apparent conflict arose because Mr Justice Balcombe had held that where a child was a ward of court under section 7(2) of the 1969 Act application had to be made first to the High Court for leave to keep a child in secure accommodation and then to seek authorization from the juvenile court: see *M v Lambeth London Borough Council (The Times*, March 27, 1984).

Then it appeared that Mr Justice Hollings thought that the relevant legislation had not fettered the power of the court in the wardship jurisdiction to direct a child to be placed in secure accommodation and that the authorization of the juvenile court was not required: see *In re L (a Minor) (The Times*, July 25, 1984).

However Mr Justice Hollings, on having an opportunity to study the full transcript of the judgment of Mr Justice Balcombe reconsidered his judgment and then adopted the same view as Mr Justice Balcombe (*The Times*, November 2, 1984).

Section 21A of the 1980 Act was mandatory. A local authority could not place a child in secure accommodation unless certain criteria were fulfilled and could only keep a child, if satisfied that the criteria exisited, for no more than 72 hours before seeking and obtaining the authority of the juvenile court.

By the No 2 set of regulations the local authority had to follow detailed requirements. Regulation 16 stated "... each local authority shall appoint at least two persons who shall review at intervals not exceeding three months the case of each child to whom these regulations apply..."

The regulations laid down the maximum period for authorization by the juvenile court; the first of which was three months and thereafter six months.

The regulations were mandatory upon the local authority and did not appear to envisage a concurrent supervisory role by the High Court under the wardship jurisdiction but that supervisory role was not excluded.

The importance of the new legislation could not be underestimated. It was not now permitted for a local authority to place a child in care in secure accommodation for an indefinite period as and when it was thought appropriate; there must be a judicial hearing before the juvenile court which might, only if certain stringent conditions were fulfilled, specify a certain but limited period a child could be placed and kept in secure accommodation.

It was clear that in every case in which it was proposed that a child should be placed in secure accommodation that the prior authorization of the juvenile court was essential save for the very brief period excepted by the regulations.

The tenor of the new legislation was to keep a minor in secure accommodation for as short a time as possible and provided that his progress should be monitored and reviewed carefully and regularly within the terms of the regulations.

It would appear that an application to keep the ward in secure accommodation for longer than six months which would be possible under the wardship jurisdiction would be out of step with the intention of Parliament as deduced from the statute and the regulations.

Both counsel had pointed out the difficulties if an application had to be made first to the wardship court; the minor was not necessarily a party to the proceedings and would not necessarily be represented or even present at the hearing.

An application might have to be made as a matter of urgency. A speedy hearing could be arranged in the High Court but the judge would require a certain amount of affidavit evidence as well as oral evidence.

The multiplicity of proceedings in different courts could lead to a chaotic situation and the welfare of the child was achieved best by the avoidance of multiplicity.

In the present case it was considered that it was desirable to place K in secure accommodation for 12 months.

It would be surprising if the wardship jurisdiction could be used to extend the maximum period as laid down by Parliament. If a statute provided strict conditions for the exercise of powers by a specific court it would also be surprising that in the case of a ward of court the established scheme could be bypassed. The High Court exercising the wardship jurisdiction had wide powers but there were circumstances when the jurisdiction should be and was so circumscribed.

Mr Blake had submitted that a major change in the child's life took place when he was placed in secure accommodation.

It was that placement which would deprive him of liberty and the appropriate time to make an application to the High Court would be after and not before the juvenile court authorization. The criteria would have been proved to exist and the child would have been represented.

In her Ladyship's opinion there was support for that submission in the terms of the statute and the regulations.

Section 21 A (8) provided that "The giving of an authorization... shall not prejudice any power of any court in England and Wales... to give directions relating to the child to whom the authorization relates".

By that section power was reserved to the court, including the High Court exercising the wardship jurisdiction, to give directions relating to an authorized child if required but the section clearly presupposed that the authority had already been given. If that course was followed conflict would be avoided. The High Court did not have to be concerned with criteria.

In *A v Liverpool City Council* ([1982] AC 363,372) Lord Wilberforce said: "To the argument ... that the High Court has a special and overriding jurisdiction because only there can the welfare of a child be assigned its proper place, the answer is clear: that there is no other principle upon which any court or administrative body can ... act than upon what is best for the child's welfare."

If thought necessary the present case could be returned to the High Court for further directions if the local authority obtained the requisite authority from the juvenile court to keep K in secure accommodation.

Solicitors: Mr W. I. Murray, Liverpool; Official Solicitor.

High Court supremacy in welfare of wards

M v Lambeth London Borough Council (No 2)

Before Mr Justice Sheldon

[Judgment delivered December 17]

Problems relating to a ward of court placed in the care of a local authority under section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 and the fact that the ward's best interests required that he be placed in secure accommodation under section 21 A of the Child Care Act 1980 and the Secure Accommodation (No 2) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1308) were the subject of observations made by Mr Justice Sheldon in the Family Division.

Miss Barbara Slomnicka for the local authority; Miss Cherie Booth for the mother; Mr Andrew Kirkwood for the *guardian ad litem*

MR JUSTICE SHELDON said that his observations were complementary to the judgment of Mr Justice Balcombe on March 22 (*The Times*, March 27, 1984) with whom Mr Justice Hollings subsequently agreed (*The Times* November 2) and of Mrs Justice Heilbron in *In re K (a Minor) (The Times* December 20, 1984).

The problems arose because of the apparent overlapping of the powers and responsibilities of the High Court, the local authority, the juvenile court and possibility the crown court.

His Lordship agreed with the procedure proposed by Mr Justice Balcombe. The ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the ward was that of the High Court. All the major decisions affecting the ward's welfare should be taken subject to the directions of the High Court.

The relationship in law between the High Court and the local authority pertaining to wards of court placed in the care of the local authority under section 7(2) of the 1969 Act remained the same as it was before the passing of section 21 A of the 1980 Act and the 1983 (No 2) Regulations.

The local authority had sought directions from the High Court concerning the boy who had been placed in secure accommodation following an application to the juvenile court on the direction of Mr Justice Balcombe. On March 24 the juvenile court had authorized the placement of the ward in a special unit for three months; on June 18, 1984 the juvenile court had granted authority for a further six months. That period expired on December 18, 1984.

The local authority sought directions as the social workers and the child psychiatrist advised further placement in the secure accommodation but the statutory reviewing panel of four members had decided that the boy should no longer remain in secure accommodation.

The reviewing panel were subject to section 18(1) of the 1980 Act that the first consideration must be given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood. Children's cases were never easy and his Lordship saw no reason for criticizing the panel for taking a different view.

The boy had made progress but the evidence before his Lordship was so overwhelming that it would be in the boy's interests to remain in the special unit. The local authority should ask the juvenile court to authorize the boy's continued placement for a further six months. The juvenile court should be able to see a copy of his Lordship's judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Richard J. M. Mellor, Lambeth; Hodge Jones & Allen, Camden; Official Solicitor.

Parents seeking access

C v C

Where a parent sought a court order relating to the access of more than one child of the family, the court had to consider the case of each child separately from that put in respect of the children collectively, the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Ewbank) held on December 12, allowing a father's appeal against that part of a county court order which denied him access to one of his three children.

Public Appointments

GENERAL MANAGER APPOINTMENTS

(Health Districts in the Oxford Region)

Following the Government's Management Enquiry into the National Health Service and the establishment of a general management function three District Health Authorities in the Oxford Region are seeking applications for their General Manager posts. The post of District General Manager calls for leadership qualities, extensive senior management experience in either the private or public sector together with evidence of a successful record of achievement with the capacity to analyse complex organisational and operational issues.



EAST BERKSHIRE

Headquarters in Windsor. Revenue cash limit £44 million; 5000 staff. Substantial capital development in hand, further major expenditure planned over next decade.
Chairman: Dr. D. McWilliams
East Berkshire Health Authority, Frances House, 81 Frances Road, Windsor, Berks. SL4 3AW. Tel: (07535) 59221

MILTON KEYNES

Based in the new city of Milton Keynes. Providing for a fast growing population currently c.146,000 and planned for 208,000 by 1994. Revenue cash limit £14 million; 2000 staff. First phase of District General Hospital opened this year. Major capital expenditure and developments planned for coming decade.
Chairman: Mr. L. Cowley
76 Buckingham Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5HL.
Tel: (0908) 74857

WYCOMBE

Based at High Wycombe providing health care for South Buckinghamshire. Revenue cash limit £23 million; 3500 staff. Major capital developments planned over next decade.
Chairman: Mr. J. Camp
Wycombe Health Authority, Oakengrove, Shrubbery Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 6PS. Tel: (0494) 26161

Appointments will be of a fixed term nature, renewable by mutual agreement. For appointees outside the NHS salary is negotiable.

Further particulars are available from District Chairmen. Written applications, together with CV, in confidence, with the names and addresses of three referees to be submitted to Chairmen no later than Friday 11th January.



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

VACANCIES In the Third World

IVS sends people with technical skills for two year appointments to work for development and self-reliance in the Third World. In doing so they aim to promote international understanding and peace.

IVS is looking for people to serve on a modest living allowance in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. Skills of many kinds are needed, including engineering, building, carpentry, psychiatric nursing, and craft work in printed textiles. Teachers are required too, with qualifications and two years work experience.

Contracts include travel, a modest living allowance, and resettlement grant. We regret we have no funding for dependants. Applicants should be resident in the UK or Eire.

For vacancy list and further details, send short cv and large sae to:-
Kathy Bourassa,
International Voluntary Service, T13
53 Regent Road,
Leicester LE1 6 YL.

IVS

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

MANAGER OF CALDERDALE INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS CENTRE

Up to £16,500 pa

The University of Bradford, in partnership with the Borough Council of Calderdale, is about to establish an Industrial Electronics Centre in Halifax to promote the use of microprocessors among firms in the Calderdale area and provide a design and development service for these firms for small projects. The Centre is being funded as a three year project in the first instance.

The Manager will be required to set up and run the Centre (which will also have a Project Engineer and other assistance), and will be expected to take the lead in liaison with local firms.

Applicants should have appropriate technical knowledge and industrial experience would be advantageous. They must be able to liaise with local firms at Senior Management level and communicate enthusiasm for the use of microprocessors.

The appointment will be made for a fixed period of three years in the first instance.

An initial salary of up to £16,500 pa on a scale rising to £17,705 pa plus USS superannuation benefits is envisaged for a suitably qualified and experienced candidate.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Secretary, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP. Closing date 23rd January, 1985. Informal enquiries may be made of Mr Richard Morton, Town Hall, Halifax (0422 57257 Ext 2214).

Torbay Health Authority

DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER

To be responsible to the District Health Authority for the General Management of its health care services serving a population of 225,000.

Current annual revenue budget in excess of £30 million. Staff employed 3,000.

Previous experience of comparable responsibility in public or private enterprise desirable.

Three year fixed term contract (renewable by mutual agreement); salary negotiable.

Further particulars and application form (returnable by 11th January, 1985) from: *A. J. Boyce Esq., Chairman,* Torbay Health Authority, Hengrave House, Torbay Hospital, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7AA. Tel: (0803) 64567 Ext. 5717.

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
Arundel & Brighton, Portsmouth and Southwark

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

c £9,000

We are looking for an office administrator to be responsible for the provision of efficient administrative, clerical and statistical support to our child care services and financial, publicity and fund raising activities based at our Head Office in Purley.

Applicants should have knowledge and experience of office procedures and new technology, first-class organisational skills and the ability to assess priorities. They should be numerate, able to communicate effectively at all levels and work on their own initiative.

For further details and application form please send brief notes about yourself to: The Director, The Catholic Children's Society, 49 Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey, CR2 2XB.

Closing date for returned applications - 11th January, 1985.

ENGLISH SKI COUNCIL

Applications are invited for the post of

Chief Executive

of the English Ski Council, the national governing body for the sport.

The Chief Executive is one of two senior staff of the council, who is responsible for the managment, administration and financial control.

As well as having experience and proven ability in management, applicants must have an interest in and empathy towards the development of amateur sport. Salary negotiable within range £10,000 - £13,000 per annum.

Applications in writing to:-

English Ski Council,
Area Library Building,
The Precinct,
Hales Owen, W. Midlands.

To arrive not later than January 11th.

YOUNG COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTANT BRUSSELS OFFICE

Required for a private investment company with interests world-wide, a young commercial Accountant, not necessarily qualified, but preferably single. The person we are looking for must be capable of working on own initiative, must speak one European language apart from English. Work will involve investigations, control procedures, future projects, and require some knowledge of computers. Must be free to travel. Location Brussels. An attractive package will be offered the right person. Apply with full CV to

BOX No 0325 L
THE TIMES

La crème de la crème

A CHANGE IN THE NEW YEAR?

British Transport Advertising has a vacancy for a Personal Assistant/Secretary to the Finance Director and Company Secretary.

The work involves organising a small secretarial office, with some knowledge of insurances, leases, legal agreements and maintenance of statutory registers.

Ability to write and edit business reports with guidance and also the writing of minutes. The post would be ideal for a graduate or student in business studies.

Typing proficiency is essential but training in word processing equipment will be given if necessary. Knowledge of shorthand would be an advantage but not essential.

Contributory pension scheme, also free and reduced rate rail travel. Salary according to experience and qualification, £9,000-£11,000. Apply, enclosing CV, to:

Personnel Manager, British Transport Advertising,
77 Newman Street, London, W1A 1DX.

SWITZERLAND

The Bank for International Settlements, an international institution in Basle, seeks fully-trained and experienced

SECRETARY / TYPIST

Age 21-26. Mother tongue English. Fluent French and, preferably, knowledge of German. Familiarity with word-processors and computer techniques desired. Interest in economics and monetary affairs an advantage for work in a small team of specialists.

Good salary, first-class pension and welfare schemes and other ancillary benefits. Excellent sports facilities available for staff.

Application, giving full details and including a recent photograph, should be sent to the Personnel Manager, Bank for International Settlements, CH-4002 Basle, Switzerland.

MEDICAL SECRETARY
Required for London Consultant Physician. Cardiology an advantage.
Box 2999Y
The Times

SUPER SECRETARIES

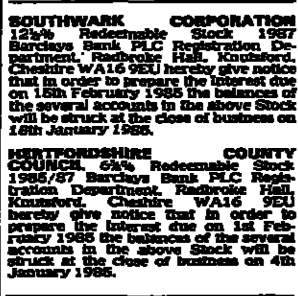
SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Permanent/temporary positions. AMSA Specialists Agency 01-734 0532.

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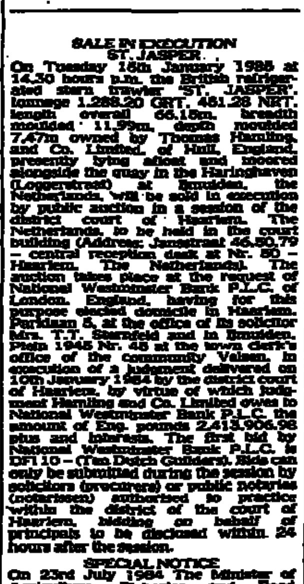


MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

SOUTHWARK CORPORATION 12½% Redeemable Stock 1987 Barclays Bank PLC Registration Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9EU hereby give notice that in order to prepare the interest due on 15th February 1985 the balances of the several accounts in the above Stock will be struck at the close of business on 18th January 1985.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 6¾% Redeemable Stock 1985/87 Barclays Bank PLC Registration Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9EU hereby give notice that in order to prepare the interest due on 1st February 1985 the balances of the several accounts in the above Stock will be struck at the close of business on 4th January 1985.

PUBLIC NOTICES



SALE IN EXECUTION
ST. JASPER

On Tuesday 15th January 1985 at 14.30 hours p.m. the British refrigerated stern trawler "ST. JASPER", tonnage 1,288.20 GRT, 461.28 NRT, length overall 66.15m, breadth moulded 11.99m, depth moulded 7.47m owned by Thomas Hamling and Co. Limited, of Hull, England, presently lying afloat and moored alongside the quay in the Haringhaven (Loggerstraat) at IJmuiden, the Netherlands, will be sold in execution by public auction in a session of the district court of Haarlem, The Netherlands, to be held in the court building (Address: Jansstraat 46,50,79 – central reception desk at Nr. 50 – Haarlem, The Netherlands). The auction takes place at the request of National Westminster Bank P.L.C. of London, England, having for this purpose elected domicile in Haarlem, Parklaan 5, at the office of its solicitor Mrs. T.T. Sternfeld and in IJmuiden, Plein 1945 Nr. 45 at the town clerk's office of the community Velsen. In execution of a judgement delivered on 10th January 1984 by the district court of Haarlem, by virtue of which judgment Hamling and Co. Limited owes to National Westminster Bank P.L.C. the amount of Eng. pounds 2,413,906.98 plus and interests. The first bid by National Westminster Bank P.L.C. is Dfl 10 – (Ten Dutch Guilders). Bids can only be submitted during the session by solicitors (procureurs) or public notaries (notarissen) authorised to practice within the district of the court of Haarlem, bidding on behalf of principals to be disclosed within 24 hours after the session.

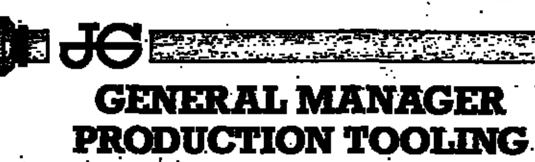
SPECIAL NOTICE
On 23rd July 1984 The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food approved an application for a "decommissioning grant" in respect of "ST. JASPER" and accordingly the vessel cannot be used by a purchaser for fishing purposes in E.E.C. waters.
Further information may be obtained from Mr H. D. M. Mulder, partner in the law firm of Van Doorne and Sjollema Advocaten, Oppert 34, 3011 HV Rotterdam, The Netherlands (Tel: 10-110280).

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
In the matter of MOLDINE LIMITED.
Nature of Business: Suppliers of Release Agents and Engineering Services to the Steel Industry.
Winding-up Order made 5 November, 1984.
Date and place of first meetings: Creditors 17 January, 1985, at 11.30am. Contributories 17 January, 1985, at 12.00. Both held at: The Official Receiver's Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP.
H ROACH
Deputy Official Receiver for Provisional Liquidator.

FI–CORD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Greyhound Motor Hotel, Warrington Road, Leigh, Greater Manchester, on Friday the 21st day of December 1984 at 12 o'clock noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 293, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act 1948.
Dated this 7th day of December 1984.
A JARRATT
Director

General Appointments



GENERAL MANAGER PRODUCTION TOOLING

John Guest Ltd is an innovative engineering company specialising in small bore tubing and tube fittings for food, drink, process plant, fluid power and automotive industries.

The company – an international leader in its field – wishes to expand and strengthen its production engineering team, and is seeking a General Manager with a sound knowledge of, and experience in, production tooling, mechanical engineering, plastic moulding and toolroom management. Applicants with an engineering qualification within the age group 30 to 45 would be preferred.

A higher than average salary is offered, together with a generous package of benefits, including a company car.

Please apply in writing to:
Robert Guest, Director, John Guest Ltd.
Horton Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8HP.

DISPLAY REPS WANTED

LONDON & MANCHESTER

The marketeer, Britain's leading weekly publication to the growing numbers of market traders and wholesalers, is looking for two display sales people.

With a national circulation approaching 40,000, the Northampton-based company has expanded throughout 1984 and is looking for two extra representatives — one in the North and one in London.

Salary will be in line with experience but a car and commission will be part of the package.

The marketeer is part of the Centaur group of publications which also include *Marketing Week.*

Ring Pat Rhodes on 0604 710722 today and start off 1985 with a new challenge.

marketeer

1A Byron Street, Kingsley Park, Northampton

Product Manager – Pharmaceutical

HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE INC. CAR

Our client is one of the worlds top 10 pharmaceutical companies involved in the manufacture and marketing of cardio vascular drugs, antifungals and antibiotics. They are displaying outstanding sales growth and propose exciting expansion plans for the future that will accelerate them to the top of the pharmaceutical league.

Due to the proposed launch of a new and advanced range of cardio vascular products, our client is now seeking an experienced product manager to fill this challenging new management role. The position will demand a high level of self-motivation and creative flair, coupled with good organisational skills and an ability to communicate confidently at senior management level.

The successful applicant will be based at the company's head office in rural surroundings to the West of London and should have 4 to 5 years pharmaceutical sales and marketing experience. A degree level of education would prove advantageous.



The salary is negotiable according to experience, with an excellent benefits package associated with a major multinational company.

To apply in strictest confidence, please call Janette Eames on 01-405 0725 or 01-831 6471.

SCIENTIFIC STAFF CONSULTANTS,
50 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2.



General Appointments

EXECUTIVE SPEECHWRITERS

Ladies and Gentlemen.. ...permit us a few words

As the developer and manufacturer of a highly advanced and successful range of information technology products, from typewriters to large computers, IBM UK is a leader in its field.

We now wish to appoint two Executive Speechwriters for positions in England and France. The first position, within our Communications Department at Basingstoke, will involve co-ordinating speech material and writing speeches for the Chairman and Chief Executive, and other senior executives. The second is an equivalent position in the Department, but begins with a 2-plus year assignment in Paris writing for IBM Europe, preparing speeches for both employee and external audiences.

You will be required to see through the whole production of a speech, from original conception to presentation – suggesting suitable themes, developing them into complete speeches in a variety of forms and styles, collating support material, briefing the speaker and checking the venue. In addition to this, you'll be advising which speeches should be included in the annual programme, and this may involve some liaison with other speechwriters.

To carry out these important, challenging responsibilities, you will need a sound background in speechwriting or journalism together with a thorough understanding of business principles. A knowledge of social and economic trends would also be useful. We are looking for men or women capable of producing highly effective communications quickly and efficiently.

Both posts are accompanied by excellent salaries and a full range of benefits commensurate with these positions.

Please write to or phone for an application form: Jane Collins, IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hants. PO6 3AU. Tel: Portsmouth (0705) 321212 extension 5167.



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- Development laboratory near Winchester
- An equal opportunity employer
- £745 million exports in 1983
- £146 million invested in UK in 1983

IBM

Divisional Finance Director

Lloyds Broking — *c.£20k + car + benefits*

With considerable financial strength, our client is a highly respected, medium-sized Lloyds insurance broker located in Southern England. With clients throughout the world, their many operating companies are incorporated within a well-defined Group structure.

This new position within the Finance Division results from expansion, including acquisitions and the successful candidate, male or female, will join an existing management group controlling overall some 90 staff.

Although not necessarily qualified, several years experience with a medium to large Lloyds Broker is essential. Staff management experience, knowledge of underwriters and client accounts including credit control and a thorough understanding of both computer systems and business account ledgers are also all required.

The amount of contact in supplying senior directors and operating companies with financial information requires personal presence, sound technical knowledge and effective communication skills.

Ideally aged mid 30's, you will receive a salary of around £20,000 pa., an executive car, non-contributory pension scheme and free BUPA and personal accident insurance. Relocation assistance will also be provided where appropriate.

Please write enclosing a full CV and quoting Ref ALF 9124 to the Confidential Reply Service, Austin Knight Advertising Ltd., 20 Soho Square, London W1A 1DS.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter to the Confidential Reply Supervisor.

Austin Knight Advertising

A world leader in Electronics has invested £200m. in the fastest growth sector of Telecommunications, on the threshold of national market penetration, and seeks:

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Your prospects in this division of a major British group are nigh unparalleled. Limited only by the success you add to lively sales teams enthused to build a communications network of immense potential. Your background must include major accounts selling to Board/Management: proven success in developing and closing significant deals with National/Regional organisations.

Vigour and will to learn and succeed are more important than radio/telephone communications experience or technical product knowledge – but it could be a bonus! Success would bring early promotion – into the future that this investment heralds . . .

Age 26-36, good education and social skills? Then Phone Peter Somerville 01-736 4764 tonight, or Saturday a.m.; or Friday at his office. Immediate London interviews within 10 days. Letters, cvs, with full 'phone numbers welcome.

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Aplin Phillimore Associates will conduct initial interviews and selection. We will put forward to our client only those candidates who are thoroughly experienced in the motor industry — cars or trucks — and who meet the other criteria of our gold star standard which are:

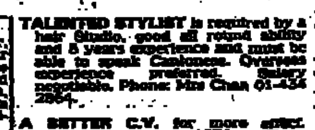
- ★ good product knowledge
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Salary will be £12,000-£16,000 p.a. depending on experience, location and responsibility, plus a car and other benefits. There are exceptionally good career prospects in this multinational organisation.

To apply, please send a concise but comprehensive C.V. — quoting reference APA/2840 — to Leon Levy, Director of Recruitment Operations, Aplin Phillimore Associates, Circle House North, 69-71 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 8BL. Or telephone 01-900 0321.

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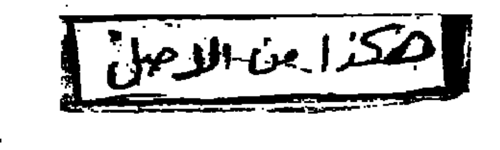


OFFICE MANAGER – Uxbridge based UK subsidiary of American Telecommunications manufacturer, seeking an office manager with excellent experience in every phase of office procedure, book keeping credit, be able to assume complete responsibility for 2 persons office. Good opportunity for fast growth period. Write complete cv with references in confidence to Box 2042 Y The Times.

CORSICA AND CORFU next summer. Bladon Lines are now recruiting their staff to work next summer in the hotels on the beaches of Corsica and Corfu. Vacancies for cooks, cleaners, bar people and water sports instructors. Please phone for an application form. 01-785 2200.

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مكرر من الاصل

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

Working at retirement

Barrie Sherman on the problems of not being employed

It is only 10.30 am when George has *his first drink of the day. He has* already been up four hours although the reason for the early rise no longer exists. He hasn't had breakfast, just tea and a piece of toast. He has been to get the paper and read it and now needs that drink.

George is not alcoholic as yet. The day is stretching before him like featureless landscape, nothing to aim at and nothing to look forward to. He will go to the pub or perhaps not as money is tight. A doze and tea are the highlights of the day. All that has happened to George is that he is no longer working – or, to be more precise no longer employed.

It is not as if George was unprepared for retirement. He volunteered to go early and had spent some time at work as a steward counselling others in similar circumstances. Despite this, the reality was far worse than he imagined. For many others it is worse still.

Life in industrialised countries is based upon employment. The education system trains rather than educates in both its subject matter and its disciplines, and this is as true at university as at primary school levels. The older notions of education have found no place in the late twentieth century. We ask young people what they want to be and expect an answer couched in job title terms. Employment and the job, its rewards, its status, its identity and its social importance pervade every day life.

Unfortunately not all of us work, and those of us that do have periods when we are left to our own devices. For employees these periods can legitimately be termed leisure, because it is work which defines the existence of leisure.

There are disciplines at work. Time keeping can be ritualised, self-expression suppressed and tasks performed. For the majority of people employment is about doing things that other people have told them to do. The number of people lucky enough to have jobs which they design themselves and where the priorities are self-set is small indeed, although "luck" is a value judgment.

It follows that if the education system prepares people for work rather than for life, then there may be problems when work is no longer available. George, and there are thousands like him, demonstrates the problem in stark relief.

What work does is less romantic than giving us a sense of purpose, and what employment does is more mundane than imparting a sense of identity. It structures our time. That is why when we lose employment either because of redudancy or retirement or the aftermath of the child bearing/raising period, we are at a loss.

George's drinking (it may as well have been taking tranquillizers) is only a solitary version of the young person banging around the street corner because school had prepared him or her for a job and precious little else. In passing, it is worth noting that the palliatives, the YTS and many other schemes, merely reinforce this status quo.

If work structures our time then it should prepare us for non-work. Activity in retirement is not unknown, although most of it is a continuation of working life hobbies, like gardening, bowls and painting. The lucky few get consultancies, but these are people who had knowledge-intensive jobs. Some unemployed people use their skills or expertise to start their own businesses, while others bring the disciplines to bear on their hobbies or interests and convert them into companies.

These people, however, are not the rule. More people feel lost when not at their place of employment than revel in their newly found freedoms. This can trail tragedy in its wake as the mortality figures among men and the *attempted suicides* among the unemployed show.

The structure of work quite simply does not prepare us for anything else. Our ability to take control over our own time, and over our lives, appears to be impaired by our experiences at work. We carry little away from work into our non-work lives. One explanation for this is that the structures are all already laid down, and that there is little encouragement to think or to practise innovations on an individual basis. The time is provided by the individual but the cirumstances of the job dictate how it is filled.

Work is like a pre-programmed word processor – we sit at it, press the appropriate buttons and the text prints out. Non-work is like sitting in front of an old fashioned typewriter, no matter how much we push the button, and being left with a blank piece of paper.

Unemployment *and retirement*, and, indeed long periods of leisure time, are for some people like writers block.

The way to solve George's problem is not at first sight as easy as it may appear to be. Pre-retirement counselling can help, as can a series of training schemes for the younger unemployed men and women. But these are at best second choices. Both are based on the assumption that working is better than not working *and that full time* work is better than part-time. Neither gives the individual the self confidence or the know-how to regain power over their own time.

The answers have to be seen in the longer term. Changes in the way that we educate people are long overdue, and the trend in the US to employ creative generalists rather than specialist technicians should be pointing in the right direction. More important is the change in how we work, and how we conduct ourselves at work. The new systems can be used to decentralise decision making, to enhance skills and to stimulate the art of taking responsibility. At present they are being used in precisely the opposite way.

In Europe flexi-time and flexi-years are becoming more usual and flexible patterns are emerging in the way operations are mounted. For the first time since the industrial revolution employees, managers and professionals pre-eminent among them, have the opportunity to structure their own work and working environments.

If they can then this knowledge can be carried over into the non-work areas of life. If not the prognosis is for the first drink of the day at ten o'clock, if George can still afford it.

● *Career Horizons will appear again on January 7.*

General Appointments

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- The Boxing Day Shoot by William Douglas Home.
- Tom Nickalls previews The Welsh Grand National.
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

As a direct result of the recent collapse of various travel organisations travellers are advised not to book any overseas flights until they have ascertained the financial security offered by the travel company or airline concerned. An excellent scheme is being organised by SUNWORLD TRAVEL, Epsom. For a nominal fee of £5 this company provides each client upon booking with a Flight Indemnity Bond whereby the insurers guarantee the client an instant repayment of up to £2,000 in the unlikely event of the collapse of either Sunworld or of any airline upon which they book a client. This new style of Bonding is exclusive to Sunworld: it is a positive move in the direction of providing the modern day traveller with complete financial security.

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WANTED. Reliable cook/housekeeper. Good home and references essential. Wages negotiable. Box 1109 T. The Times.

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THE TIMES

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Monday 24th December 1984
Thursday 27th December 1984
by 3.00 p.m. Friday 21st 1984

Friday 28th December 1984
by 10 a.m. Monday 24th December 1984

Wednesday 2nd January 1985
by 10 a.m. Monday 31st December 1984

Thursday 3rd January 1985
by 10 a.m. Monday 31st December 1984

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Entertainments

THEATRES
also on page 25

STRAND WC2 01-836 2660/4143/5190 7.30. Wed 2.30. Sat 5 & 8.30. Closed Christmas Eve. Extra Perf Thursday, December 27 at 2.30.

BARBICAN CINEMA. 01-628 8795. Student reducts on all perfs. TODAY at 6.00 & 8.00 GHOSTBUSTERS (PG). Barbican Centre Closed Dec 24 & 25.

CAMDEN PLAZA 485 2443 (opp. Camden Town Tube). Eric Rohmer's FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

BANKSIDE GALLERY CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Wide variety of Watercolours, Prints and Drawings FOR SALE by Members of the Royal Water-Colour Society and The Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers. Pictures can be taken away at time of purchase. 11th-23rd Dec Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-6, 17th-20th Dec extended opening until 7pm. 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SW1. Tel: 01-928 7521.

CINEMAS

ART GALLERIES

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

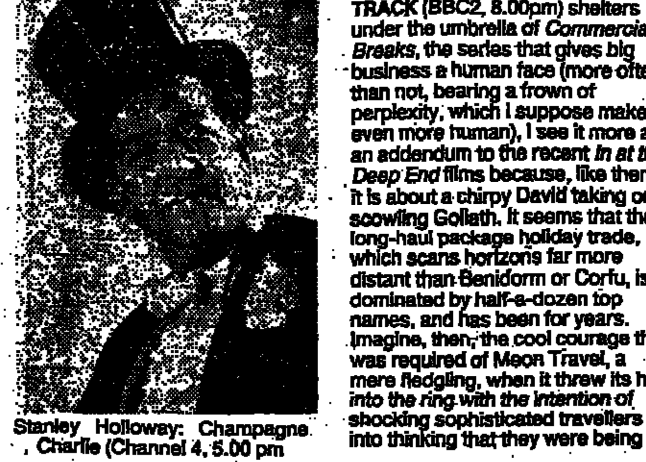
.00 Ceefax AM.
.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; Sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18. Plus the Breakfast Time Doctor and Glynn Christian's festive fare between 8.30 and 9.00. The guest is Rod Hull with Emu.
.05 Taking Sides. The final programme in the radiovision series, broadcast simultaneously with Radio 4 deals with Morality. Among those taking part are Richard Tipler, a former policeman turned sex-shop owner who has now embraced Christianity, philosopher Alan Ryan, the Bishop of Stepney, Jim Thompson, and Sir Monty Finniston. 10.00 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School (r). 10.50 Ceefax.
.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. The weather details come from Michael Fish 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report.
.00 *Pebble Mill at One* includes the final of the Youth in Business Award and music from Shakatak 1.45 Fingerbobs (r).
.00 The Afternoon Show presented by Barbara Dickson and Panny Junor. Among the topics touched on today are retirement and social drinking. There is also an interview with Chris Serle. 2.40 Beauty is in the Eye. The last of four films focuses on the beauties of Polynesia (r).
.50 War at Sea. Ludovic Kennedy traces the history of the four-year life of the German warship, Scharnhorst (r).
.40 Cartoon. Tom and Jerry in A-Tominable Snowman 3.48 Regional news (not London).
.50 Play School, presented by Ben Thomas 4.10 SuperTed.
.15 Jackanory. Michael Barrymore reads part four of The Land of Green Ginger. 4.30 Screen Test Christmas Special. The champions meet a guest team representing Grange Hill. 4.50 John Craven's Newsround.
.00 Blue Peter. Simon Groom switches on the Christmas illuminations in Mousehole, Cornwall (Ceefax) 5.20 Henry's Cat 5.25 Grange Hill. Episode 16 (r) (Ceefax) 5.58 Weather.
.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.
.30 London Plus.
.55 The District Nurse. The final episode of the series and Megan faces a dilemma. Should she stay in Pencwn or should she leave and find happiness elsewhere? (Ceefax).
7.25 Top of the Pops presented by Simon Bates and Janice Long.
.00 The Front Line. Sheldon is upset when his half-brother, Malcolm, now a policeman, *arrests one of his heroes*, Biff Martins, a small-time crook.
8.30 Zoo 2000. Jeremy Cherfas visits zoos that specialise in close contact with uncaged animals (Ceefax).
9.00 News with Julia Somerville.
9.25 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Sue Cook present a series of *reconstructed unsolved* crimes in an effort to jog viewers' memories.
0.05 Taking Sides Special. More than 100 members of the mining community of Shirebrook in North Derbyshire debate their predicament.
1.05 Crimewatch Update.
1.15 Macmillan at War. Lord Stockton recalls the negotiations which led to the Italian armistice.
1.50 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Jayne Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; guests, Nicholas Parsons, Faith Brown and Silvio Trumpetto from 6.45; *exercises at 6.45 and 9.20*; exercises at 8.51; pop video at 7.46; Faith Brown remembers Christmas past at 8.16; film review at 8.34; Tina Baker solves Christmas problems at 8.47.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street. 10.25 The Moomins (r).
10.30 Under the Same Sky. Tom Baker with a story from Germany, Stina, about the horrors of having a car accident abroad.
10.50 About Britain. Vic of the Scillies is a portrait of Vic Trenwith, bus driver and taxi operator who has been entertaining islanders and visitors with humour and song for nearly 80 years.
11.15 Video and Chips. Computer knowledge for the young 11.35 Razzmatazz. Pop music.
12.00 Flicks. Cartoon films of children's books, presented by *Christopher Lillicrap (r)* 12.10 Mooncat and Co and guest Patsy Rowlands 12.30 The Sullivans.
1.00 News at One 1.20 Thames news with Robin Houston 1.30 Falcon Crest. Drama series about the battle for control of a California wine business. Starring Jane Wyman.
2.30 Daytime. Sarah Kennedy chairs a studio discussion on a matter of topical importance 3.00 University Challenge. The second leg of the final between the Open University and the University of St Andrews. The questionmaster is Bamber Gascoigne.
3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 Film: Scout's Honor (1980). A made-for-television movie, starring Katherine Helmond and Wilfred Hyde White, about a middle-aged woman who dislikes children who is *reluctantly persuaded to* organise a cub scout group. Directed by Henry Levin.
5.15 Blockbusters.
5.45 News 6.00 Thames news.
6.35 Crossroads. Glenda Banks learns some news about John Latchford from Kath Brownlow.
7.00 Knight Rider. Michael Knight and his computerised car go to the assistance of a committed social worker who is being scared off her ranch by a gang intent on claiming her oil rights.
8.00 Duty Free. The last programme in the comedy series about two couples on holiday in Spain.
8.30 Hotel. More drama from San Francisco's St Gregory Hotel where, this week, Mrs Cabot's erratic behaviour is causing the staff concern.
9.30 TV Eye: The Third Man. Will it be safe to fly the Atlantic with a smaller flight deck crew and fewer engines? Yes, says the airline planning to introduce two-engined passenger jets flown by two pilots on the North Atlantic route. No, say the pilots who argue that the airline is saving money at the risk of passengers' lives.
10.00 News at Ten.
10.30 Film: The Wild Bunch (1969) starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan and Edmund O'Brien. Drama set in the not-so-Wild West of 1914 when a gang of outlaws, chased by bounty hunters, plan a raid on a railroad office on the Texas border, unaware that their deadliest enemy has set a trap for them. Lots of gore as one would expect from the director, Sam Peckinpah.
12.55 Night Thoughts.


Stanley Holloway: Champagne Charlie (Channel 4, 5.00 pm

● Although OFF THE BEATEN TRACK (BBC2, 8.00pm) shelters under the umbrella of *Commercial Breaks*, the series that gives big business a human face (more often than not, bearing a frown of perplexity, which I suppose makes it even more human), I see it more as an addendum to the recent *In at the Deep End* films because, like them, it is about a chirpy David taking on a scowling Goliath. It seems that the long-haul package holiday trade, which scans horizons far more distant than Benidorm or Corfu, is dominated by half-a-dozen top names, and has been for years. Imagine, then, the cool courage that was required of Meon Travel, a mere fledgling, when it threw its hat *into the ring with the intention of* shocking sophisticated travellers into thinking that they were being

CHOICE

offered something different. You might think it odd that one of the "something different" attractions for sophisticates, dwelt on at some length in tonight's film, is a trip deep into the jungles of Borneo to dwell among head-hunters, (admittedly reformed) sharing mixed *accommodation in long dormitories* with bamboo-slat walls, and with a cluster of shrunken human heads standing in for tthe floral baskets considered *de rigueur* in Benidorm and Corfu.

● You could easily begin to lose patience with THE LOVED ONES (BBC2, 9.30) a *Forty Minutes* documentary about a medical centre for animals in New York, if you allowed mental pictures of the Ethiopian famine tragedy or the Bhopal gas disaster to get in the way. This *expensive haven for* distraught pet-lovers, privately run and spectacularly equipped, numbers among its patients a dog who, every 10 days and for the past five years, has had to be given insulin injections. There is a consultant animal behaviourist to enlighten dog-lovers about the *mysteries of their pets' preference* for surfaces on which to urinate. And there is a pet bereavement group where heartbreak is pooled so intensely that, if you happen to switch on your television set at this point in Ted Clisby's film, you will think that you have suddenly come upon a post-funeral family gathering, in deepest mourning for a departed relative.

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax
3.55 Backstairs at the White House. *The last episode of the* series on the lives of Presidents of the United States as seen through the eyes of a mother and daughter who, between them, worked in the White House for more than half a century. In this afternoon's episode Harry Truman is played by Harry Morgan; Andrew Duggan is Dwight D Eisenhower and John Anderson plays Franklin D Roosevelt (r)
5.30 News summary with subtitles
5.35 Film: The War Wagon (1967) starring John Wayne, Kirk Douglas and Howard Keel. Wayne plays a paroled prisoner bent on taking revenge on the man who put him prison and also took his farm. The ex-prisoner, Taw Jackson, recruits a gang to steal a gold shipment that is guarded by an almost impregnable horse-drawn steel wagon. With Keenan Wynn and Bruce Cabot. *Directed by Burt Kennedy*
7.10 The First Noels. Part four of the series tracing the history of carols concentrates on those written when the monarchy was restored to the throne following the Puritan period. Presented by Sir Geraint Evans and featuring the William Byrd Choir and the Choir of All Saints Church, London
7.25 Open Space: Blues and Beyond. Part two of the series celebrating black music. From London's Moonshine Arts Centre, Chicago's Julio Finn, with performers from Africa, America and the Caribbean, play blues, reggae and griot music from West Africa
8.00 Commercial Breaks. The final programme of the series follows the fortunes of a small holiday company who have taken the decision to expand into the competitive exotic holiday market. A new chief executive, Graham Phillips, scours the world for out-of-the-way places and by October the new brochure is out. Will it attract any potential holidaymakers? (See Choice.)
8.30 Food and Drink Christmas Special, presented by Chris Kelly. The best buys in Christmas puddings and suggestions for disposal of turkey leftovers
9.00 Entertainment USA. Jonathan King is in Seattle where he discovers why the Washington city has become the testing ground for avant garde plays and films
9.30 Forty Minutes: The Loved Ones. A documentary about the ever-open Animal Medical Center, New York (See Choice)
10.10 The Travel Show presented by Paul Heiney includes reports on wintertime in Teneriffe; on what you get for your money at *Mayrhofen in the Austrian* Alps; and on a British Rail mystery tour
10.45 Newsnight
11.30 Buongiorno Italia! (r). Ends at 12.00

CHANNEL 4

2.30 The British at War. The series of British wartime *documentaries and* propaganda films, introduced by Leslie Halliwell, continues with Fires Were Started * – a film made by Humphry Jennings in 1943 that tells the story of a day *in the life of* members of a London Auxiliary Fire Service substation during the blitzes of 1940-41. Then: *The True Story of Lili Marlene* * which depicts the story of the German song adopted by the Eighth Army as a marching song; and Cameramen at War. * A tribute to the camera operators of the Allied armed services and the newsreel companies. The commentator is Raymond Glendenning.
4.30 Countdown. This second semi final.
5.00 Film: Champagne Charlie * (1944) starring Tommy Trinder and Stanley Holloway. Period piece about the rivalry between two Victorian music hall entertainers during the 1860s. *Directed by Alberto* Cavalcanti.
7.00 Channel Four News.
7.50 Comment. With his personal view of a matter of topical importance is Canon Charles Walker of the South London Catholic Caribbean Chaplaincy.
8.00 The Road to Itang. A documentary about the small Ethiopian border town of Itang which, 18 months ago, boasted fewer than 200 residents. Today that number has swollen to 60,000 because of the influx of refugees who have fled from the political uncertainties in southern Sudan. They seek succour from a country that itself is reeling from famine. Despite this, a massive relief operation has been set up to cope with the ever-increasing numbers of refugees turning Itang into the biggest project in Africa for *the United Nations High* Commissioner for Refugees. The narrator is Terence Stamp.
8.30 International Gymnastics. Steve Rider introduces coverage of the 1984 Bottlers of Coca-Cola Tournament from the Wembley Arena.
9.30 *Film on Four: Winter Flight.* 1984 starring Reece Dinsdale and Nicola Cowper. Romantic drama about a shy young RAF recruit who is a trafficker in the Bird Control Unit of an RAF base and his attachment to a Naafi barmaid, set against a background of a war alert. Directed by Roy Battersby.
11.30 The Wine Programme. The final programme of Jancis Robinson's informative series examines the wine-making technology used by the Californian growers (r).
12.00 Soap. Jessica is swept off her feet by the South American revolutionary who is holding her captive.
12.25 Ian Breakwell's Christmas Diary. What happens at a party in Hammersmith.
12.30 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave. † stereo on VHF.
5.55 Shipping.
6.00 News briefing; Weather. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Taking Sides. An audience of 150 air their views on the subject of morality. (A simultaneous broadcast with BBC1 Scotland.)
10.00 News, Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts.
10.30 Morning Story: 'Epsom Salts' by Robin Pearson. Read by Neil Stacy.
10.45 Daily Service; Advent Calendar: The Annunciation.†
11.00 News; Travel; This Thing Called Love. Laurie Taylor asks the eternal question – can simple *friendship blossom into love?*
11.28 The Case Against God. Last of eight programmes in which Gerald Priestland enquires into the existence and character of God: Verdict and the Sentence.
12.00 New: You and Yours.
12.27 Son of Cliche †12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour. Today's *edition includes Christmas* Symposium, an anthology in words and music.
3.00 The Afternoon Play: The Humanisation of George Meyhew, by Jill Hyem. With Moir Leslie and John Rowe. Romance develops when a woman breaks into a flat occupied by a bachelor.†
4.00 News; Enquire Within with Neil Landor.
4.10 Bookshelf. Radio 4's good books programme. With Hunter Davies.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Lovely Lady' by D. H. Lawrence. Abridged in two episodes (1). Read by Rachel Herbert.
5.00 PM: News Magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.30 My Word! Dilys Powell and Frank Muir challenge Antonia Fraser and Denis Norden.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Through My Window. With William Wilkinson.
7.30 Carols From Liverpool. Richard Baker introduces the annual concert of carols and Christmas music direct from Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool. (Part 1.)†
8.20 Any Answers? with John Timpson.
8.40 Carols From Liverpool. Part 2.†
9.30 Ian Skidmore in the BBC Sound Archives.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Just Resting' by Leon McKern. Eight extracts from his recently published autobiography. (4). Read by the author. 10.29 Weather.
10.30 The World Tonight.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News; Weather. 12.33 Shipping. VHF (available in England and S Wales only) Radio 4 vhf is as above, except: 5.55-6.00 am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00 pm Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Joining In.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2 (Berman, soloist, with Vienna SO under Giulini); Fauré's (orchestrated Rutter) Cantique de Jean Racine (Cambridge Singers); Tchaikovsky's suite The Nutcraker (Cleveland Orchestra under Maazel).†8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (contd): Bach's Suite No 1 in C (BWV 1066) played by English Concert; Poulenc's Suite francaise (Tacchino, piano); Janacek's suite The Cunning Little Vixen.†9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Bizet. Glenn Gould plays Variations chromatiques; the LSO play *L'Arlesienne (Suites 1 and 2).*†
10.00 Kurt Weill: the Leipzig Gewandhaus (under De Waart) play the Symphony No 2.†
10.30 Cello and Piano: Melissa Phelps and John York play Schumann's Three Fantasiestucke Op 73; and Martinu's Sonata No 1.†
11.00 1984 Holst Festival: Holst's Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda (Set 3); John Fould's Keltic *Melodies, 1909*; and various works by Frank Bridge including Peter Piper; Cherry Ripe; and Sir Roger de Coverley.†
11.40 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.†
12.00 1984 Holst Festival: with Antony Saunders (piano), Janet Evans (soprano), St Angela's Singers and Divertimenti. Foulds's Three choruses from the Hippolytus of Euripides Op 84b; Holst's Seven part songs, Op 44; and Percy Grainger's Molly on the shore; Irish tune from Derry: Lost lady found.†1.00 News.
1.05 Schubert: Vienna Octet play the Octet in F, D 803.†
2.00 Debussy: Le martyre de Saint Sebastien. Sung in French. With Vienna SO, Vienna Youth Choir, soloists Sona *Ghazarian*, Christa Ludwig, Ria Bollen, Paul-Emile Deiber and Didier Raymond (in *spoken roles*.†
3.30 Piano Trios: Raphael Trio play Beethoven's Trio movement in A flat major; and Medelssohn's Trio in D minor Op 49.†
4.10 Youth Orchestras of the World: Surrey County Youth Orchestra (under Mongor). Walton's *Johannesburg Festival Overture*; Chaminade's Concertino for flute and orchestra (Vivian Jones, soloist); Gordon Jacobs Mini-Concerto for Orchestra 1984; Massenet's Movements from ballet suite Le Cid.†4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Roger Nichols's selections illustrate the theme of the composer as interpreter.†
6.30 *Bandstand: The Templemore* Band play Bantock's Syphonic Prelude: Prometheus Unbound; Gordon Jacob's Suite in E flat; Gareth Wood's Coliseum.†
7.00 At Home Nowhere: Dr Philip Brady, Reader in German at Birbeck College, in conversation with Wolfgang Hildesheimer, the writer and graphic artist.
7.30 BBC Welsh SO (Loughran conducting). With Edith Peinemann (violin). Part one. Mozart's overture The Marriage of Figaro; Beethoven's Violin Concerto. In part two, at 8.30, Brahms's Symphony No 1. Interval reading at 8.20.†
9.25 Dallapiccola's 80th: Rohan de Saram (cello) and Douglas Young (piano). Dallapiccola's Ciaconna; intermezzo e adagio. Douglas *Young's Columba (in memorian* Dallapiccola); Vivaldi's (revised Dallapiccola) Cello Sonata Op 14 No 3 (RV 43).†
10.00 Music in Our Time: Aldo Clementi's one-act opera ES. With sopranos Kavanna, Donath, Schneider; mezzos Althoff, Poli, and Logie; contraltos Batty, Gonzales, d'Alboni; and *Mariangela Colonna (speaking role)*. Italian Radio SO under Pesko.†
10.55 Ulster Orchestra (under Wetton). Raff's overture Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, Op 127; Liszt's Symphonic Poem Prometheus; Mendelssohn's Symphony No 5 (Reformation).†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Radio 2

On medium wave. † also VHF stereo. News on the hour. Headlines 5.30 am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30.
4.00am Colin Berry.† 5.30 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan †incl 8.31 Racing. 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00pm Steve Jones †incl 1.05 Sports Desk. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford †incl 2.02; 3.02 Sports Desk. 3.30 *Music all the Way.*† 4.00 David Hamilton †incl 4.02; 5.05 Sport Desk. 6.00 John Dunn †incl 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.30 The Fosdyke Saga; last of 24 episodes. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 8.00 Wally Whyton †introduces Coutry Concert. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 Radio Active. 10.30 Star Sound Extra. Art Babbit, pioneer animator at the Disney Studios talks to Tom Hutchinson. 11.00 Round Midnight *(stereo from midnight) 1.00 Nightride.*† 3.00-4.00 Slide Hampton: second half of a concert recorded by the American jazz trombonist.†

Radio 1

6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 12.00pm Gary Davies incl 12.30pm Newsbeat. 2.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Bruno Brookes incl 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00-12.00am Into The Music with Tommy Vance.†

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Cole Porter And His Music. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Country Music Profile. 8.30 John Peel. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Monitor. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 The Ideal Cast. 10.30 Three Men in a Boat. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 New Ideas. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Top Twenty. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 Sackbuts and Sinfonies. 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Juke Box Jury. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Assignment. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Meridian. 8.00 World News. 9.15 A Jolly Good Show. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 The First Half Century. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Outlook. 1.30 Not So Much A Hobby. 1.45 Ulster Newsletter. 1.50 In *The Meantime. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review* of the British Press. 2.15 The Art of Gerald Moore. 2.30 Gold Fever. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Business Matters. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Country Music Profile. 5.45 The World Today.

(All times in GMT)

BBC1 Wales: 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 2.48-3.50 News of Wales headlines. 5.25-5.35 Interval. 5.35-5.58 Wales Today. 6.30-6.55 Grange Hill. 8.30-9.00 Week In Week Out. 11.50am-12.20 Zoo 2000. Scotland: 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 6.30-6.55 Reporting Scotland. 8.30-9.00 Cause for Concern. 11.50-11.55 News and Weather. Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. *6.30-6.55 Inside Ulster.* 11.50-11.55 News and weather. England: 6.30pm-6.55 Regional news magazines.

S4C Starts 1.00pm Countdown. 1.30 Alice. 2.00 Ffalabalam. 2.15 Interval. 2.40 Film: Bank Holiday (Margaret Lockwood). 4.05 Black and White and Read All Over. 4.35 Ffalabalam. 4.50 Wil Cwac Cwac. 4.55 Y Gwylit. 5.20 Mary Tyler Moore Show. *5.50 Brookside. 6.20 Y Nadolig Hwnnw.* 6.30 Teulu-Ffon. 7.00 Newyddion. 7.30 Teulu-Ffon. 8.00 Coleg. 8.30 Byd Cerdd. 9.10 Arts Review of the Year. 11.05 Kabul Autumn. 12.05 Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25 am Cartoon. 10.45 Christmas Story. 11.05-12.00 Christmas Memory. 1.20 pm News. 1.30-2.30 Champions. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. *4.00 Cartoon. 4.15-5.15 Stawberry Ice.* 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Knight Rider. 8.00-8.30 Comedians. 10.30 Action Replay. 11.30 Star Parade. 12.30 am What Christmas Means. Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 10.25 am-12.00 Film: Sunstruck (Harry Secombe). 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Return of the Saint. 3.30 Young Doctors. *4.00-5.15 Film: Oliver Twist.* 6.00 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Knight Rider. 8.30 Never the Twain. 9.00-9.30 Bounder. 10.30 Yellow Rose. 11.30 Hollywood Special. 12.30 am Star of Bethlehem. 12.35 News. Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

HTV WEST As London except: 10.30am Star of Bethlehem 10.35 Champions 11.20 How We Study the Sun 11.30-12.00 Home 1.20pm News 1.30-2.30 Country Practice 3.30-5.15 Film: Jack the Giant Killer 6.00 News 6.35 Crossroads 7.00 Emmerdale Farm 7.30 Knight Rider 8.30 Never the Twain 9.00-9.30 Bounder 10.30 Scene '84 11.00 Sweeney 12.00 Five Ways of Christmas. Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six 10.30-11.00 Wales This Week.

ULSTER As London except: 10.25am Smurfs. 10.50 Harlem Globetrotters. 11.15 Cartoon. 11.35 Kum Kum. 11.55-12.00 Star of Bethlehem. 1.20pm Lunchtime. 1.30-2.30 Levkas Man. 3.30-5.15 Film: Sandwich Man (Michael Bentine). 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.25 Police Six. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Night Rider. 8.30 Never The Twain. 9.00-9.30 Bounder. 10.30 Hopeful Word. 10.40 Celebration. 11.10 *Falcon Crest.* 12.05am News, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 10.25 am Country Rhapsody. 10.35 Gulliver. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 Monster's Christmas. 11.55-12.00 Star of Bethlehem. 12.30 pm-1.00 Calendar at Christmas. 1.20 news. 1.30-2.30 Love Boat. 3.30-5.15 *Film: Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.* 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Knight Rider. 8.30 Never the Twain. 9.00-9.30 Bounder. 10.30 In the Bleak Midwinter. 11.30 Streets of San Fransisco. 12.30 am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 10.25am Little House on the Prairie. 11.45-12.00 Harlem Globetrotters. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Bodyline. 1.35-2.30 Country Practice. 3.00-5.15 Film: Jack the Giant Killer. 6.00 News and Scotland Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Take the High Road. 7.30-8.00 Police Squad. 10.30 Crime *Desk. 10.35 Gaffer. 11.05 Late Call.* 11.40 Crann Tara. 12.20am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am Star of Bethlehem 9.30 Once Upon a Time ... Man 9.55 Falcon Island 10.20 How The Kiwi Lost Its Wings 10.35-12.00 Film: Go for a Take (Reg Varney) 12.25 European Folk Tales 12.40-1.00 Contact 1.20 News 1.30-2.30 Champions 3.30-5.15 Film: Jack the Giant Killer 6.00 Crossroads 6.25 News 7.00 Emmerdale Farm 7.30 Knight Rider 9.00-9.30 Bounder 10.35 Central Lobby includes poll on political party leader's popularity. 11.05 Yellow Rose 12.45am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 10.25 Film: Go For a Take (Reg Varney) 1.55-12.00 Star of Bethlehem 1.20pm News. 1.30-2.30 Love Boat 3.30 Jack the Giant Killer 5.15 Gus Honeybun 5.20-5.45 Crossroads 6.00 Today South West 6.45 Knight Rider 7.45-9.30 Film: Salzburg Connection 10.35 Yellow Rose 11.30 Liberace in Concert

TVS As London except: 10.25am Fabulous Funnies. 10.50 Tales of Pom Pom. 11.05-12.00 Magic Planet. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 3.30 Young Doctors. 4.00-5.15 Oliver Twist. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Knight Rider. 8.30 Never the Twain. 9.00-9.30 Bounder. 10.30 Star of Bethlehem. 10.35 Film: Fugitive Family (Richard Crenna). 12.20am Company.

CHANNEL As London except: 9.25 am Chips. 10.20 Island *Wildlife. 11.15 Short Story. 11.45-12.00* World's Children. 1.20 pm News. 1.30-2.30 Love Boat. 3.30 Film: Jack The Giant Killer. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies*. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.20 Crossroads. 6.45 Knight Rider. 7.45-9.30 Film: Saltzburg Connection. 10.35 Yellow Rose. 11.30 Liberace in Concert. 12.45 am Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: *10.25-12.00 Film:* Father Dear Father. 1.20pm News. 1.30-2.30 Champions. 3.30-4.00 Sons and Daughters. 4.00 Smurfs. 4.15-5.15 Chips. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Night Rider. 8.30 Never the Twain. 9.00-9.30 Bounder. 10.32 Film: Where The Spies Are (David Niven). 12.00 Signs of Christmas. 12.05am Star of Bethlehem, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 10.25am Matt and Jenny 10.45 Christmas Story 1.20pm Granada Reports 1.30-2-30 Love Boat 4.00-5.15 Film: Westbound (Randolph Scott) 6.00 This Is Your Right 6.05 Crossroads 6.30 Granada Reports 7.00 Emmerdale Farm 7.30 Knight Rider 8.30 Never the Twain 9.00-9.30 Bounder 10.30 Sweeney 11.30 Replay '84 12.20am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 10.25am Peter and the Wolf 10.55 Cartoon 11.05-12.00 Magic Planet 1.20pm News 1.30-2.30 Country Practice 3.30-5.15 Film: Jack the Giant Killer 6.00 North Tonight 6.30 Police News 6.35 Crossroads 7.00 Happy Days 7.30 Knight Rider 8.30 Never the Twain 9.00-9.30 Bounder *10.30 Kojak 11.30 About Gaelic 12.00* Portrait of a Legend 12.30am News. Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

Entertainments

also on page 24

Historic moment in the Great Hall



Moment of truth: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Zhao Ziyang, China's Prime Minister, sign the agreement, watched by ministers and officials.

Continued from page 1

the British Government will do all in its power to make the agreement a success. "It will be our pride and our pleasure to administer Hong Kong up to June 30, 1997, in accordance with the highest principles of British administration. We shall administer it prudently with foresight and in the best interests of the people."

Mrs Thatcher, praised by Chinese leaders as an outstanding politician with vision, was herself full of complements for Mr Deng Xiaoping, calling his "*one country, two systems*" solution for Hong Kong "an idea of genius." She then paid him the highest compliment when she said: "The most basic principle which both our governments are applying is ... to seek truth from facts."

"Seeking truth from facts" is the current Dengist slogan in China, underpinning both economic and Communist Party reforms. It is also the basis whereby Deng is attempting to unshackle the country from the dogmatic political theories of Marxism and Mao Tse-tung thought.

Mrs Thatcher told the British Press "I have not given Hong Kong away. I couldn't give it away. We are bound till 1997. If we hadn't negotiated this agreement, we would have got nothing (for Hong Kong) post-1997. Now we have something to keep the prosperity of the place going."

On the issue of Hong Kong's future constitution – or basic law Mrs Thatcher said: "The basic law is the law of China, so you would expect China to draw up that law ... The agreement stipulates that the basic law will reflect what is contained in the joint declaration. We (Britain) will be monitoring the basic law through the Sino-British joint liaison committee." Mrs Thatcher offered little consolation for Hong Kong people who wanted direct participation in the drafting of the basic law although she said that there was an undertaining that China would solicit a wide range of opinion in Hong Kong in the process of drawing up that consitution.

● Buckingham Palace confirmed last night that the Queen has accepted "in principle" an invitation to visit China. But a date had yet to be arranged.

EEC action on dairy quota cash payments

From Ian Murray
Brussels

The European Commission decided yesterday to suspend payment of 25 per cent of advances to the dairy sector in five countries, including Britain, to force their obedience to the EEC's controversial milk quota scheme.

The decision was taken against those countries which have refused to collect a superlevy from farmers or dairies who have been producing more milk than allowed under an agreement made by agriculture ministers

Other countries involved are France, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Luxembourg. West Germany has collected the necessary money. Denmark has been able to show that it owes nothing. Greece and Italy were both exempted from making a first payment until next May. The commission will today decide whether to block money to Ireland.

Brittan in demand over child sex offenders

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, yesterday foreshadowed new measures to prevent child sex offenders getting jobs in which they would come into contact with children.

In a statement on the case of Colin Evans, the murderer of Marie Payne, Mr Brittan announced that he was reviewing the system under which information about the criminal records of people seeking to work in sensitive areas, such childminding, is made available to the departments that need to know it.

And strong guidelines are to be issued to probation officers

Evans, who was jailed for a minumum of 30 years on Monday after admitting the murder of Marie, aged four, was introduced to the voluntary organization Toc H in Berkshire by his probation officer in 1981 after serving three prison sentences for offences against children. The charity was not told of his convictions.

Toc H worked with the social services department and in 1982 Evans became a childminder for a family of three children.

Mr Brittan said that he had called for a formal report from the Berkshire probation committee. His announcement of an inquiry was being welcomed by MPs last night as signalling the likely widening of the disclosure of information about criminal records to social services and education departments.

Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston and chairman of the Lords and Commons Child Protection Group, who has argued for greater access to police records in order to get clearance for people seeking jobs in which they would work with young people, said she was "immensely pleased" with the Home Secretary's move.

'True poet' Ted Hughes is new Laureate

Continued from page 1

"I think there is still a useful role for a Poet Laureate, although it rather depends on what you think of the crown. For me the crown is the symbol of the unity of the tribe, the spiritual unity. When that is outmoded, perhaps the job of the Laureate will be", he said.

On the matter of composing celebratory verse for royal occasions, he said: "I expect the Muse will dictate what can be done here or elsewhere. I don't think that this appointment will make any change in my life. There is no reason for me to become a more public figure". This was not a popular view among the news desks of the world yesterday. Imagination quivers at the notion of Hughes *writing* celebratory verse. He is neither a cosy nor a courtierly poet.

Ted Hughes has decided to keep the case of wine, worh £27, as part of his official salary as a member of the Queen's Household.

The salary is £70 per annum, as it has been since the sixteenth century. Charles I introduced the extra payment of a butt, tun, or hogshead of wine. In 1790 a Poetaster Laureate called Henery James Pye asked for money in lieu of wine, and was awarded £27. His successors took the money until Betjeman, who was given a case of not very good wine worth £27. Ted Hughes has elected to carry on drinking, rather than banking his secondary emolument.

Ted Hughes is a Yorkshireman, the son of a carpenter, and has worked as a rose gardener and night watchman. He won a scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge, from grammer school, and did National Service in the RAF as a wireless mechanic. He was marriedto the American poet, Sylvia Plath.

He brings a gust of acrid provincial air to the ancient office. He is an angry prophet rather than a smooth courtier. His verse is angular, savage, robust – and very good.

Last night he said: "I quite like the discipline of writing something to commission. I have done quite a lot of it in the past, and I look forward to doing it as Poet Laureate. I am looking forward with interest to seing what I can produce".

So are the rest of us.

Diary, page 10

Letter from Delhi

How Subedar Ali fought a man-eating tiger

This is the story of Subedar Ali, who hit a man-eating tiger on the nose, and has lived to tell the tale.

A man who fights barehanded with a fully grown and hungry tiger could hardly expect to survive. Subedar felt the tiger begin to eat him and saw his own scalp in its mouth.

Doctors remark that he has a very strong will to live. In Delhi for the eighth operation to repair his torn body, Subedar described his extraordinary encounter and escape.

Subedar is aged 26 and works as a *mahout* in Corbett Park, a range of jungle, river and scrub in the Himalayan foothills of northern India, where tiger, leopard and elephant roam wild.

He and a fellow *mahout* rode their elephants into the jungle to cut fodder from the trees. They separated and Subedar chained his elephant to a tree and climbed another to cut its branches with an axe.

He was about 12 feet above the ground when the tiger, which earlier had killed a man in Corbett Park, sprang at *him*, sank its claws into his legs and pulled him to the ground.

"I am a Muslim and I prayed to God", Subedar said. "I also prayed to the Hindu gods because I knew I needed much help."

He had the presence of mind to roll on to his front to prevent the tiger tearing at his abdomen and throat. The tiger sank its teeth into his shoulders and neck, bit off his left ear and lacerated his back from neck to thighs. Then it scalped him.

Holding Subedar's shoulder in its mouth, the tiger dragged him about 10 feet into the bushes. As is usual in tiger attacks, his clothes had been pulled off. Then the tiger rolled him over and straddled him.

As the tiger went for his throat the desperate man thrust his hand into its jaws and grasped its tongue and bit its nose. The tiger bit his hand, leaving two fingers almost severed.

Then it slashed at Subedar's face, slicing his lower lip in half and cutting his eyelids.

All the time Subedar was conscious and yelling to his fellow *mahout*, Qutub, for help. His own elephant was trumpeting loudly.

Qutub emerged from the trees and the tiger backed off. Tigers and elephants have a mutual dislike. Qutub placed his elephant between the tiger and Subedar, and the badly injured man rolled himself towards his own elephant and unfastened the leg chain.

He was unable to get up and the elephant hoisted him with its trunk, placing him on its neck. With the growling tiger padding closely behind, the two elephants walked for two miles to the park offices.

Subedar was put into a truck and taken to a small hospital where a doctor, using ordinary sewing thread, closed the bite wounds and claw slashes with 170 stitches.

Subsequently, Brijendra Singh, a warden at Corbett Park, had him brought 200 miles to hospital in Delhi. A series of painful repair operations was started.

Over the following months skin from his legs was grafted on to his head to make a new scalp. His fingers and eyelids were mended.

Two weeks after the mauling, Brijendra Singh identified the tiger by its footprints, tracked it and finally lured it into a trap with a trail of meat. It is now in Kampur zoo. Subedar went to see it recently and marvelled at its size, 9 feet long and 670 lb in weight.

Subedar does not bear a grudge. He asked that the tiger should be captured, not killed. He will soon be back on full time duty in Corbett Park and hopes to see many more tigers. "To be a *mahout* is the joy of my life", he said.

Hair will never grow on the part of his head that was injured. Baldness, and the scars on his body, will always remind him of his astonishing escape.

Trevor Fishlock

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, attend a gala performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 7.25.

Duke of Gloucester attends the RIBA banquet at the Baltic Exchange, St Mary Axe, EC3, 7.15.

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend the British Field Sports Society dinner dance at Sotheby's, 7.15.

Last chance to see

Ceramics by Anne Vallade and Robin Wade; and paintings and embroidery by Felicity Walker; Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr, 11 to 5.

Exhibitions in progress

Antique Dolls; and Villas and Pillars: the architecture of Hastings in photographs; Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Cambridge Rd, Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sun 3 to 5 (ends Jan 6).

Illustrations of Antiquity: paintings and drawings of ancient sites and antiquities; Randolph Gallery, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (ends Jan 31).

A View of Stirling over the last 100 years; by local photographers, Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Stirling; Wed to Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 7).

Music

Concert by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.

Concert by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Christmas music

Carols by Candlelight: Bath Bach Choir, Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Concert of Christmas music by Danensian Choir; St Georges Church, Doncaster, 7.

Concert by the Vermuyden Concert Band; Priory Place Methodist Church, Printing Office St, Doncaster, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Carol concert with the Mednesford Salvation Army Band; Lichfield Cathedral, Staffs, 8.

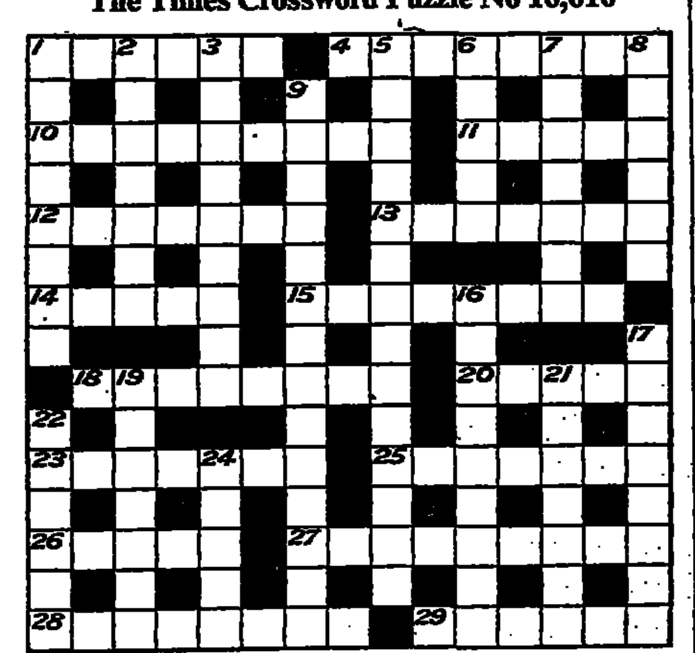
Carols Continuous with Merseyside Police Band; Liverpool Parish Church, Old Churchyard, 12.

Carols with the Hull Choral Union Orchestra; City Hall, Hull, 7.30.

Carols Old and New by the Sheffield Oratorio Chorus; Sheffield Cathedral, 7.30.

Carol concert by the Broadland Singers and the Citadel Salvation Army Band; St Andrew's Hall, Norwich, 8.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,616



ACROSS

1 Accountant held by detectives – a six-footer (6).
4 Young sucker temporarily unattracted by hunting (8).
10 Suitable hobby for a boy in Cambridgeshire? (9).
11 No book, no moulding (5).
12 Did train get crammed? (7).
13 Conveying assent or drowsiness, this acquaintance? (7).
14 In absence of typist he takes a letter (5).
15 Little bird sent out to fish (8).
18 Penny gets rheumatic trouble planting leadwort (8).
20 Horses start eyeing birds (5).
23 Unfashionable actors, homeless and friendless (7).
25 Wild horseman decapitated in Liguria (3,4).
26 The spirit to ensure a good reception, say? (5).
27 Letter for 26, for instance (9).
28 Frames those supporting the Board (8).
29 Seal, say, or the Ugly Duckling? (6).

DOWN

1 Legal competence of American states over town (8).
2 An invention – firm's first in years! (7).
3 Newspaper supports Herbert in vague form of partition (9).
5 Train a pilot from Perth, perhaps (6,8).
6 Servant at first unfriendly to such as Katharina (5).
7 One that ruminates about a man like Thyrsis (7).
8 It's hard to straddle river channel (6).
9 A journalist should write this first thing! (7,7).
16 Support closure of a line? What a story! (9).
17 Mac or Ted, maybe – or possibly Andrew Johnson (8).
19 Window for upper room in the Parisian style (7).
21 It's always the prevailing fashion *for some footballers* (7).
22 Pigment obtained from fellow countryman in Estonia once? (6).
24 Parcel out books from Genesis to Malachi (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 16,615

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Sir George Baker's review of Northern Ireland emergency legislation. Motion on Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 2) Order.

Lords (11): Motions on Merchant Shipping (Liner Conferences) Orders and other orders.

Crisis at Christmas

Crisis at Christmas is a charitable organization offering food and shelter to London's single homeless over the Christmas period.

A few more volunteers are needed to help with the *preparation of* accommodation as well as the running of the scheme and clearing up afterwards. Volunteer drivers, particularly those with their own vehicles, are also needed.

Donations of money, mattresses, bedding and men's clothing would be most welcome. Contact Crisis at Christmas, 212 Whitechaple Rd, London, E.1. (Tel: 01-377 0489).

Cheap-rate calls

Cheap-rate calls over the Christmas and New Year period will be available from 6 pm December 24 to 8 am December 27 and from 6 pm December 28 to 8 am January 2. The reductions cover local, national and most direct dialled international calls.

Calls to and from the Falkland Islands will be half-price between midnight December 21 and midnight January 11.

Books – hardback and paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Art of Our Time: The Saatchi Collection, 4 volumes (Lund Humphries Publishers Ltd, paperback £20 each).
Britain in the Age of Walpole, edited by Jeremy Block (Macmillan, £16, paperback £5.95).
The Atlas of British Politics, by Robert Waller (Croom Helm Ltd, paperback £16.95).
Canna – The Story of a Hebridean Island, by J L Campbell (Oxford, hardback £25).
Church Treasures in the Oxford District, by Prof E B Ford and J S Haywood (Alan Sutton, paperback £4.95).
Directors of Industry, The British Corporate Network 1904-76, by John Scott and Catherine Griff (Polity Press, hardback £19.50).
European Urbanization 1500-1800, by Jan de Vries (Methuen and Co. Ltd, hardback £22.50).
The Politics of Broadcasting, edited by Raymond Kuhn (Croom Helm, hardback £17.95).
The Shortest Journey by Philippa Pullar (Unwin Paperbacks, paperback £3.95).
Whitehall and the Labour Problem in Late-Victorian and Edwardian Britain, A Study in Official Statistics and Social Control, by Roger Davidson (Croom Helm, hardback £18.95). PH

Roads

London and South-east: Heathrow Airport: Increasingly congested with holidaymakers; delays likely on spur from junction 4 of M4 to Airport. A400: Camden St, in Camden Town: reduced width between Camden Rd and Crowndale Rd. M25: Lane closures between Wisley and Chertsey in Surrey, at junctions 10 and 11 on the northbound carriageway; only the hard shoulder open at times.

The Midlands: A134: Temorary signals at Sudbury, Suffolk. A10: Contraflow N of Colsterworth at Stoke Roshford, Lincolnshire.

The North: A69: Roadworks at Greenhead Northumberland; delays. A691/A692: Roadworks on the Leadgate bypass.

Wales and West: A394: Roadworks from Herniss to Rame between Penryn and Helston; temporary lights 24hrs a day. M4: Only one lane open westbound between junctions 17 and 18 (Cirencester to Bath stretch).

Scotland: A75: Bypass construction at Gatehouse of Fleet, Kircudbright; traffic control from time to time. A8: Outside lane closed 1 mile E of Shawhead interchange with the A725 to the Chapelhall interchange at the B799. A1: Roadworks W of Haddinton, E Lothian.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Daily Star, commenting on the announcement made by Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, that an extra £1 million was to be given to aid Ethiopian refugees who have fled to camps in Sudan, says: "But that marvellous million more than compensates for the tax take on Band Aid's chart topper – plus the money raised on Wham's latest single, which is also boosting the appeal. And victory, by any other name, will taste just as sweet to the children of Ethiopia."

The Sun, commenting on Mr Jenkin's plans to curb public spending by freezing some of the local authorities' assets left from the sale of council houses, says: "The manifestos before the last two elections solemnly pledged the party to cuts in state spending. Yet everytime the axe actually has to fall, somewhere there are angry screeches from Tory MPs."

Anniversaries

Births: **John Wilson Croker**, politician and essayist, Galway, 1780; **Sir Robert Menzies**, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41, 1949-66, Jeporet, Victoria, 1894.

Ambroise Paré, surgeon, *died* Paris, 1590.

Snow reports

The following report has been received from a tourist board:

NORWAY	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Geilo	–	45	exclnt	–	–3
Gol	–	25	good	–	–11
Lillehammer	–	75	exclnt	–	–6
Voss	–	30	bad	–	–3
Rjukan	–	65	exclnt	–	–4

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.49	1.39
Austria Sch	26.40	25.10
Belgium Fr	75.90	71.90
Canada $	1.605	1.535
Denmark Kr	13.58	12.87
Finland Mkk	7.90	7.50
France Fr	11.53	11.00
Germany DM	3.76	3.58
Greece Dr	176.00	182.00
Hongkong $	9.55	8.85
Ireland Pt	1.215	1.155
Italy Lira	2305.00	2205.00
Japan Yen	305.00	289.00
Netherlands Gld	4.24	4.04
Norway Kr	10.95	10.45
Portugal Esc	206.50	196.50
South Africa Rd	2.40	2.24
Spain Pta	206.00	196.00
Sweden Kr	10.77	10.27
Switzerland Fr	3.10	2.95
USA $	1.22	1.17
Yugoslavia Dnr	305.00	285.00

Retail Price Index: 358.8.

London: The *FT* Index closed up 2.7 at 942.6.

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play

Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

Troughs of low pressure over England and Wales will clear quickly followed by a showery W flow across all *areas.*

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E England, East Anglia, E Midlands: Rain clearing, sunny intervals and showers developing; wind SW fresh or strong veering NW and moderating; max temp 9C (48F).

W Midlands, Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind NW moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Showers, heavy and thundery in places, wintry on hills, some sunny intervals; wind W fresh or strong; max temp 8C (46F).

NW, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Scattered showers, sunny intervals; wind W moderate or fresh; max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Showers and sunny intervals in the N, mostly dry with sunny periods in the S, more general rain in W later; near normal temperatures; overnight frost and fog patches; windy in the N.

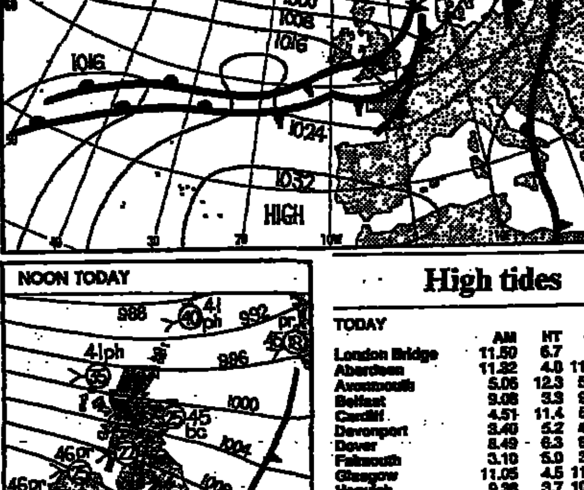
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW strong or gale veering NW moderate; rain then fair; visibility moderate or poor becoming good; sea rough becoming moderate.

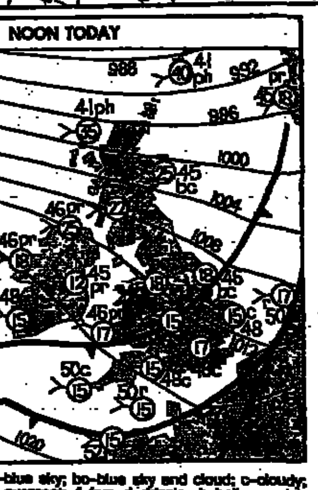
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W fresh or strong; showers; visibility moderate becoming good; sea rough becoming moderate.

Sun rises: 8.03 am Sun sets: 3.53 pm

Moon rises: 5.44 am Moon sets: 2.11 pm

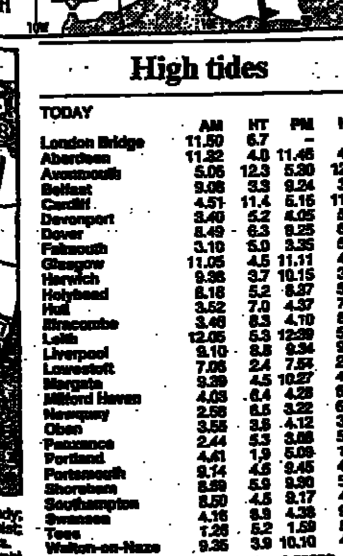
New Moon: December 22.





b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.

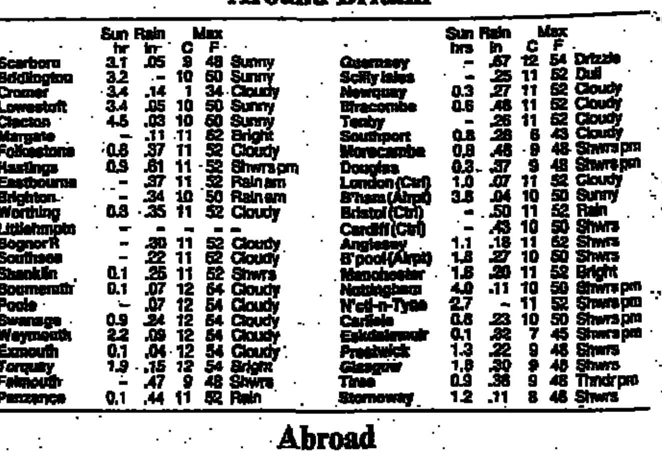
High tides



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.50	6.7	–	–
Aberdeen	11.32	4.0	11.46	4.2
Avonmouth	5.06	12.3	5.30	12.5
Belfast	9.08	3.3	9.24	3.5
Cardiff	4.51	11.4	5.16	11.5
Devonport	3.40	5.2	4.05	5.2
Dover	8.49	6.3	9.25	6.2
Falmouth	3.10	5.0	3.35	6.1
Glasgow	11.05	4.5	11.11	4.5
Harwich	9.38	3.7	10.15	3.8
Holyhead	8.18	5.2	8.37	5.4
Hull	3.52	7.0	4.37	7.4
Ilfracombe	3.48	8.3	4.10	8.4
Leith	12.05	5.3	12.29	5.3
Liverpool	9.10	8.8	9.34	9.0
Lowestoft	7.06	2.4	7.54	2.3
Margate	9.39	4.5	10.27	4.5
Milford Haven	4.03	6.4	4.28	6.5
Newquay	2.58	6.5	3.22	6.6
Oban	3.55	3.8	4.12	3.5
Penzance	2.44	5.3	3.08	5.4
Portland	4.41	1.9	5.09	1.9
Portsmouth	9.14	4.6	9.45	4.5
Shoreham	8.59	5.9	9.30	5.8
Southampton	8.50	4.5	9.17	[illegible]
Swansea	4.16	8.9	4.38	[illegible]
Tees	1.26	5.2	1.59	[illegible]
Walton-on-Naze	9.35	3.9	10.10	[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	3.1	.05	9	48	Sunny
Bridlington	3.2	–	10	50	Sunny
Cromer	3.4	.14	1	34	Cloudy
Lowestoft	3.4	.05	10	50	Sunny
Clacton	4.5	.03	10	50	Sunny
Margate	–	.11	11	52	Bright
Folkestone	0.8	.37	11	52	Cloudy
Hastings	0.5	.61	11	52	Shwrs pm
Eastbourne	–	.37	11	52	Rain am
Brighton	–	.34	10	50	Rain am
Worthing	0.8	.35	11	52	Cloudy
Littlehmptn	–	–	–	–	–
Bognor R	–	.30	11	52	Cloudy
Southsea	–	.22	11	52	Cloudy
Shanklin	0.1	.25	11	52	Shwrs
Bournemth	0.1	.07	12	54	Cloudy
Poole	–	.07	12	54	Cloudy
Swanage	0.9	.24	12	54	Cloudy
Weymouth	2.2	.09	12	54	Cloudy
Exmouth	0.1	.04	12	54	Cloudy
Torquay	1.9	.15	12	54	Bright
Falmouth	–	.47	9	48	Shwrs
Penzance	0.1	.44	11	52	Rain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Guernsey	–	.67	12	54	Drizzle
Scilly Isles	–	.25	11	52	Dull
Newquay	0.3	.27	11	52	Cloudy
Ilfracombe	0.6	.48	11	52	Cloudy
Tenby	–	.26	11	52	Cloudy
Southport	0.8	.28	6	43	Cloudy
Morecambe	0.8	.48	9	48	Shwrs pm
Douglas	0.3	.37	9	48	Shwrs pm
London (Ctrl)	1.0	.07	11	52	Cloudy
B'ham (Airpt)	3.8	.04	10	50	Sunny
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	.50	11	52	Rain
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	.43	10	50	Shwrs
Anglesey	1.1	.18	11	52	Shwrs
B'pool (Airpt)	1.8	.27	10	50	Shwrs
Manchester	1.6	.20	11	52	Bright
Nottingham	4.0	.11	10	50	Shwrs pm
N'cstl-n-Tyne	2.7	–	11	52	Shwrs pm
Carlisle	0.8	.23	10	50	Shwrs pm
Eskdalemuir	0.1	.32	7	45	Shwrs pm
Prestwick	1.3	.22	9	48	Shwrs
Glasgow	1.8	.30	9	48	Shwrs
Tiree	0.9	.38	9	48	Thndr pm
Stornoway	1.2	.11	8	46	Shwrs

Lighting-up time

London 4.23 pm to 7.34 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.43 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 8.12 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.53 am
Penzance 4.52 pm to 7.49 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sunny.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	8	46	Guernsey	r	11	52
Birmingham	s	10	50	Inverness	s	7	45
Blackpool	r	9	48	Jersey	r	10	50
Bristol	r	10	50	London	f	11	52
Cardiff	r	10	50	Manchester	f	10	50
Edinburgh	f	8	46	Newcastle	c	9	48
Glasgow	f	9	48	Ronaldsway	f	10	50

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6 pm, 92 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.07in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.0hrs. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1018.4 millibars and rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp Poole, Weymouth and Teignmouth 12C (54F); lowest day max: Glenlivet –2C (28F); highest rainfall: Keswick 0.87in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen 4.7 hr.

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	12	54	Cologne	r	4	39	Majorca	s	14	57	Rome	f	16	[illegible]
Akrotiri	s	17	63	Copenhgn	c	3	37	Malaga	s	16	61	Salzburg	f	3	[illegible]
Alexandria	f	20	68	Corfu	f	16	61	Malta	f	18	64	Sao Paulo	s	1	[illegible]
Algiers				Dublin	c	10	50	Melbourne	c	22	72	S Francisco			
Amsterdam	r	11	49	Dubrovnik	f	15	59	Mexico C				Santiago			
Athens	c	16	61	Faro	s	15	59	Miami				Seoul*	s	-2	[illegible]
Bahrain	f	17	63	Florence	r	8	46	Milan	c	8	46	Singapore	t	26	[illegible]
Barbados				Frankfurt	c	3	37	Montreal				Stockholm	s	2	[illegible]
Barcelona	s	10	50	Funchal	c	19	66	Moscow	sn	-5	23	Strasbourg	f	4	[illegible]
Beirut*	s	18	64	Geneva	f	4	39	Munich	sn	1	34	Sydney	s	25	[illegible]
Belgrade	c	13	55	Gibraltar	c	16	61	Nairobi	s	24	75	Tangier*	f	15	[illegible]
Berlin	fg	0	32	Helsinki	c	0	32	Naples	f	13	55	Tel Aviv	s	22	[illegible]
Bermuda				Hongkong	c	17	63	New Delhi	s	18	64	Tenerife*	f	20	[illegible]
Biarritz	s	12	54	Innsbruck	sn	1	34	New York				Tokyo	f	10	[illegible]
Boulogne	c	11	52	Istanbul	f	12	54	Nice	s	13	55	Toronto			
Bordeaux	f	9	48	Jeddah				Oslo	s	-3	27	Tunis	f	17	[illegible]
Brussels	r	5	41	Jo'burg				Paris	c	7	45	Valencia	s	13	[illegible]
Budapest	fg	3	37	Karachi	s	24	75	Peking	s	1	34	Vancouver			
B Aires				Las Palmas	f	19	66	Perth	s	30	86	Venice	r	8	[illegible]
Cairo	c	21	70	Lisbon	s	11	52	Prague	c	1	34	Vienna	c	5	[illegible]
Cape Tn	f	23	73	Locarno	s	9	48	Reykjavik	sn	-1	30	Warsaw	c	1	[illegible]
C'blanca*	c	17	63	L Angeles				Rhodes	s	17	63	Washington			
Chicago				Luxembg	sn	0	32	Riyadh	s	17	63	Wellington*	c	18	[illegible]
Ch'church*	f	22	72	Madrid	s	7	45	Rio de Jan	c	22	72	Zurich	s	4	[illegible]

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

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